YOUNG KING COMICS

ツマヌダ格闘街

TSUMANUDA ファイトタウン

FIGHT 3

上山道郎

KAMIYAMA MICHIROU

YOUNG KING COMICS

ツマヌダ

TSUMANUDA FIGHTOWN

格闘街

ファイトクラブ

3

上山道郎

UEYAMA MICHIROU Presents

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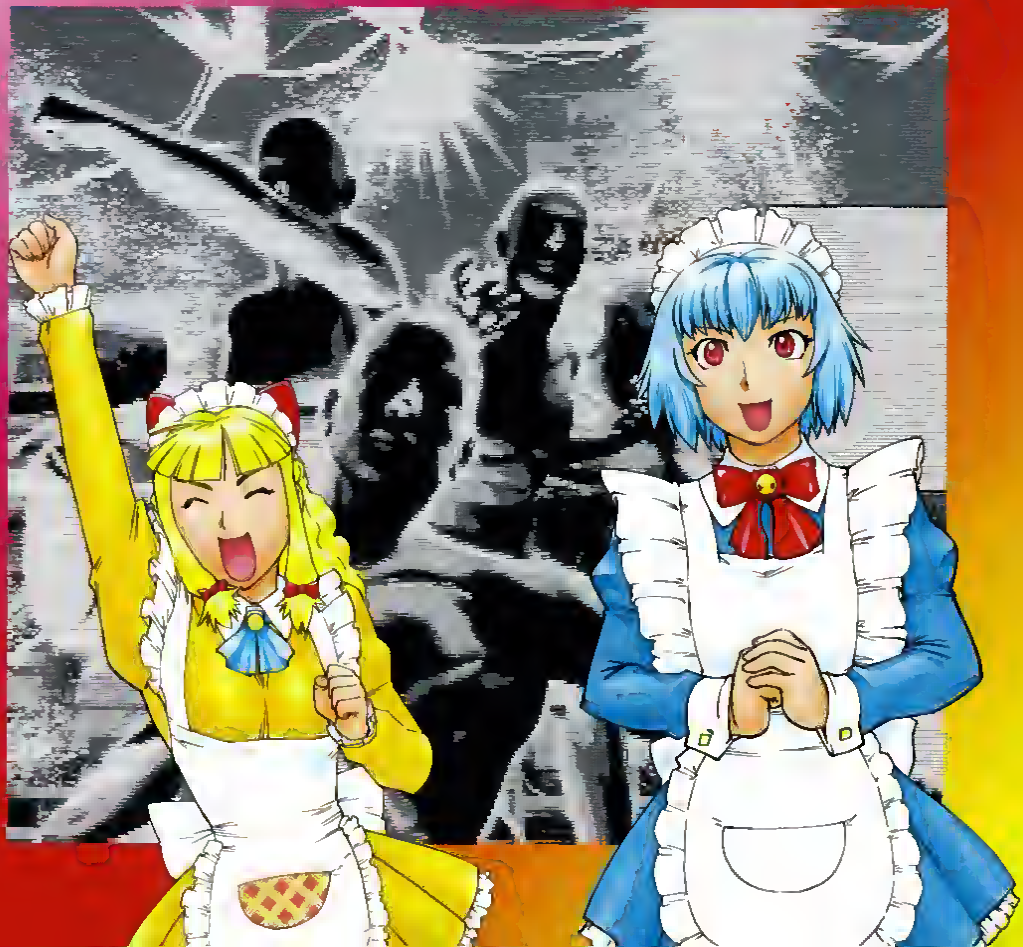
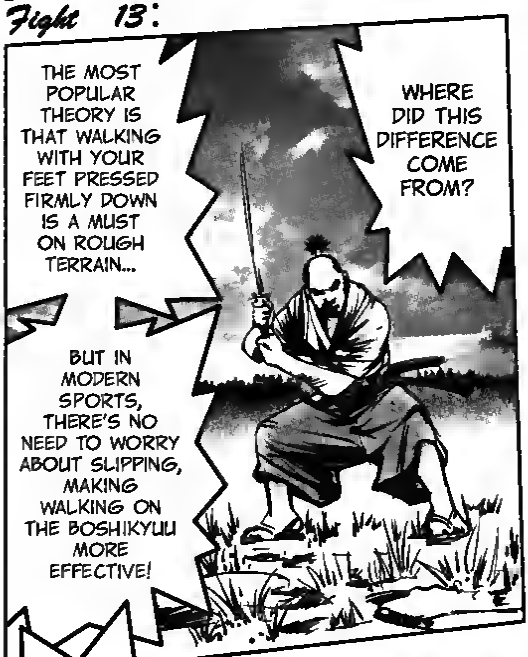
* THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION.



THE LEGENDARY MUSASHI MIYAMOTO'S "BOOK OF FIVE RINGS" SAYS THUS—
"HOLD YOUR FEET LIKE THIS"!
"WITH YOUR TOES SLIGHTLY RAISED AND HEELS PRESSED FIRMLY DOWN"!

Fight 13:

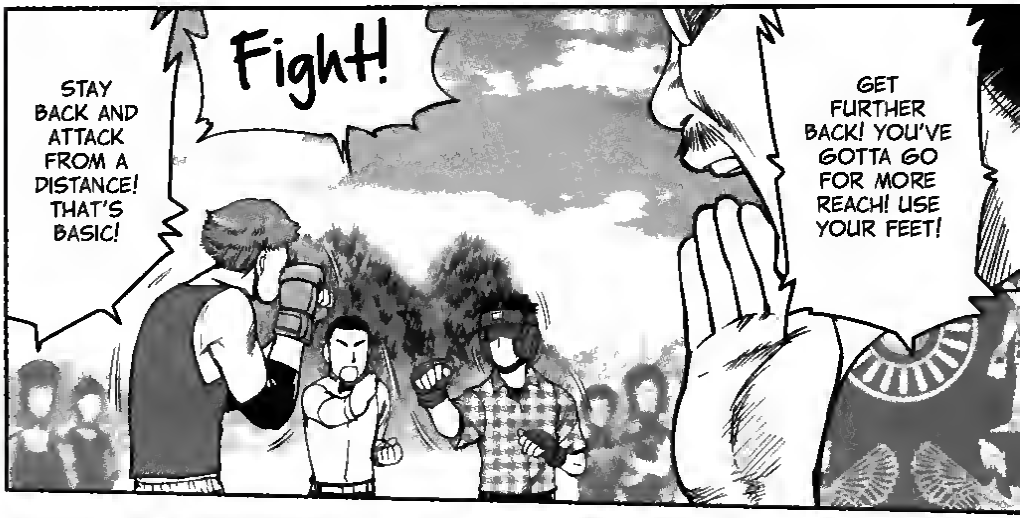

WHERE DID THIS DIFFERENCE COME FROM?
THE MOST POPULAR THEORY IS THAT WALKING WITH YOUR FEET PRESSED FIRMLY DOWN IS A MUST ON ROUGH TERRAIN...
BUT IN MODERN SPORTS, THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT SLIPPING, MAKING WALKING ON THE BOSHIKYUU MORE EFFECTIVE!

THIS, HE SAYS, IS HOW YOU SHOULD WALK!
IT IS THE OPPOSITE OF HOW MODERN KENDO FIGHTERS STAND, WITH THEIR HEELS OFF THE GROUND!
BOSHIKYUU
EVERY MODERN FIGHTER USES WHAT THEY CALL THE "BOSHIKYUU," THE AREA JUST BELOW THE BIG TOE!

HOW-EVER!

GWAH!
SLAM
SHINGO KUMAGAI FIGHTING STYLE: KICK-BOXING
Fight 13:
Me, Too?!
WOULD THE WORDS OF A LEGENDARY MASTER...
...REALLY BE SOME-THING SO SIMPLIS-TIC?!

I-IT'S NOT WORKING! I'M GONNA LOSE!
ONE!
TWO!
DOWN!
UGH ...
THUMP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHINGO?


Fight!
STAY BACK AND ATTACK FROM A DISTANCE! THAT'S BASIC!
GET FURTHER BACK! YOU'VE GOTTA GO FOR MORE REACH! USE YOUR FEET!

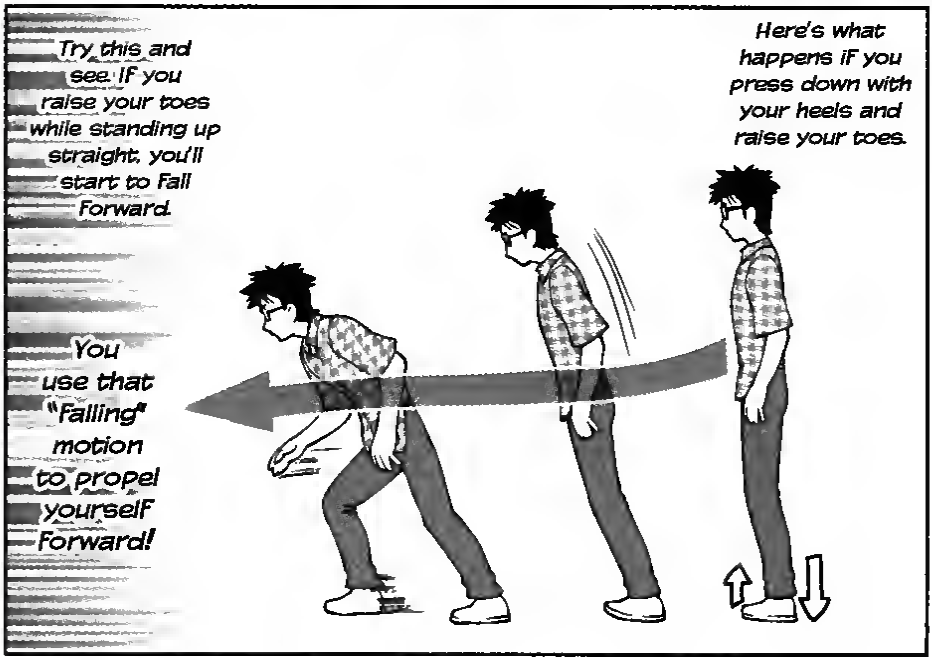
I'VE BEEN TRYING!
I-I KNOW THAT!

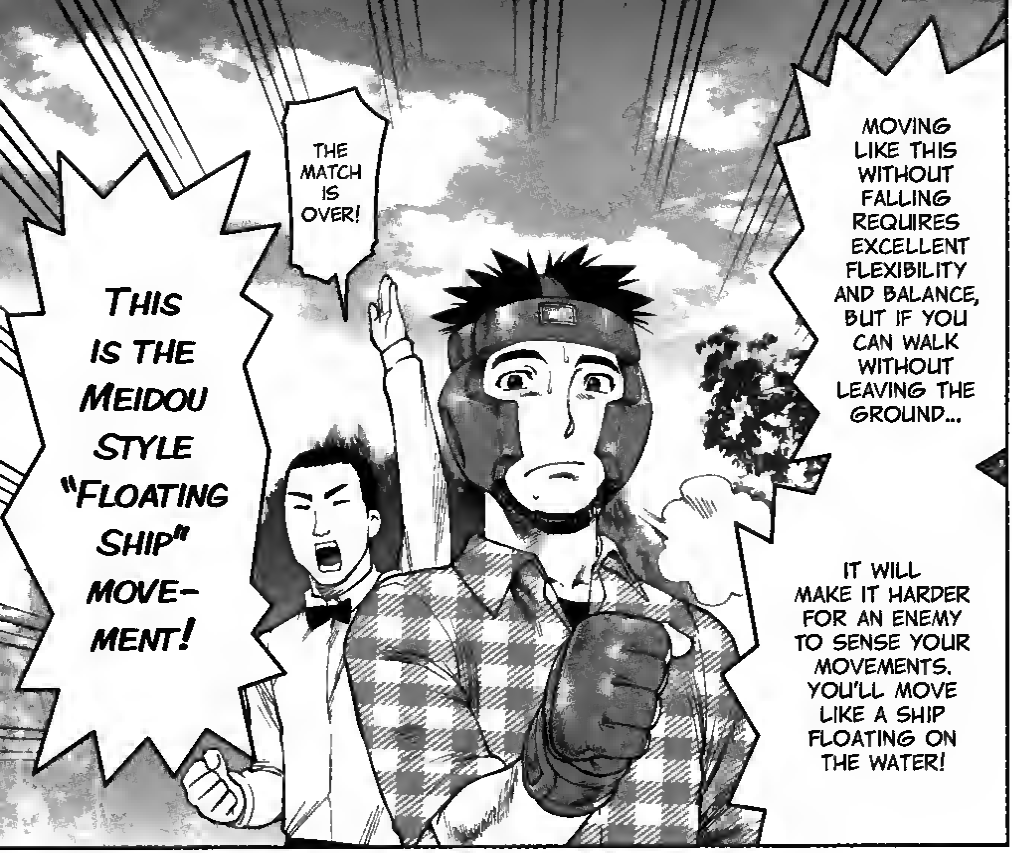
I'VE BEEN STAYING AS FAR BACK AS I CAN...
AND FORWARD-KICKING HIM...
SLIDE
?!
SMACK
WHACK
HOW?
HOW DID HE GET SO CLOSE?!

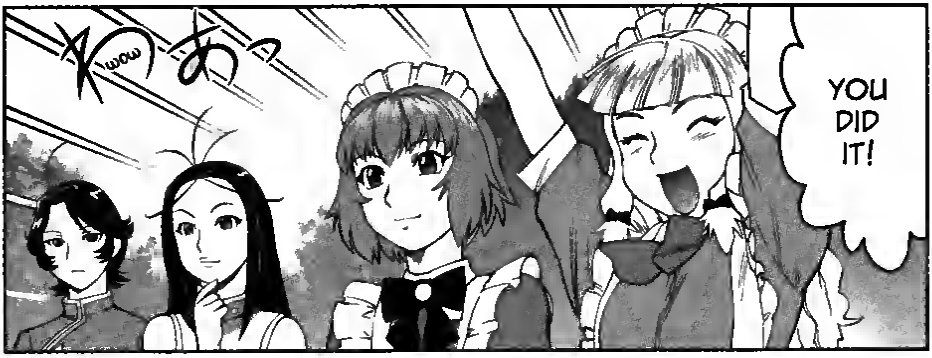
IF I CAN'T GET AWAY, I'LL GET CLOSE AND KNEE HIM..
DAMN!
REACH
WHACK
ZIP
GRAB
SLIDE
STEP
UWAH!

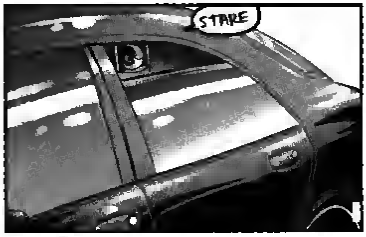
MEIDOU STYLE—
HEAVEN AND EARTH THROW!

AW...
I SAID TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!
HOW ARE YOU LETTING HIM GET SO CLOSE?
!!
WHAM
TH-THAT...
...IS WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!
OW... MY SHOULDER...


Try this and see if you raise your toes while standing up straight, you'll start to fall forward.
Here's what happens if you press down with your heels and raise your toes.
You use that "falling" motion to propel yourself forward!


THE MATCH IS OVER!
MOVING LIKE THIS WITHOUT FALLING REQUIRES EXCELLENT FLEXIBILITY AND BALANCE, BUT IF YOU CAN WALK WITHOUT LEAVING THE GROUND...
THIS IS THE MEIDOU STYLE "FLOATING SHIP" MOVE-MENT!
IT WILL MAKE IT HARDER FOR AN ENEMY TO SENSE YOUR MOVEMENTS. YOU'LL MOVE LIKE A SHIP FLOATING ON THE WATER!


Wow
YOU DID IT!

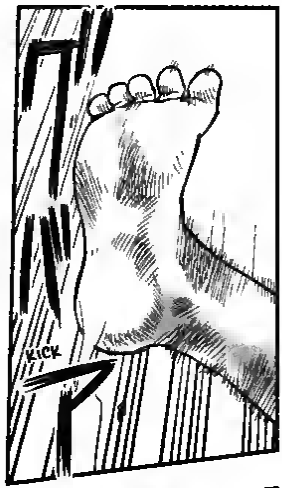

STARE

I SEE.
YAEGASHI MITSURU.
I AGREE HE'S GOT POTENTIAL. HE'S GOT A CUTE FACE.
AND HE LOOKS LIKE A WEAK NERD, BUT IS VERY STRONG. I LIKE HOW SURPRISING THAT IS!

NO, MRS. PRESIDENT.
THE MAN I WANT TO RECOMMEND IS THE OTHER ONE THERE.
SILENCE

JIRO WONG, THE TAI CHI CHUAN FIGHTER.
KYAAA!

SLAM
HAH!

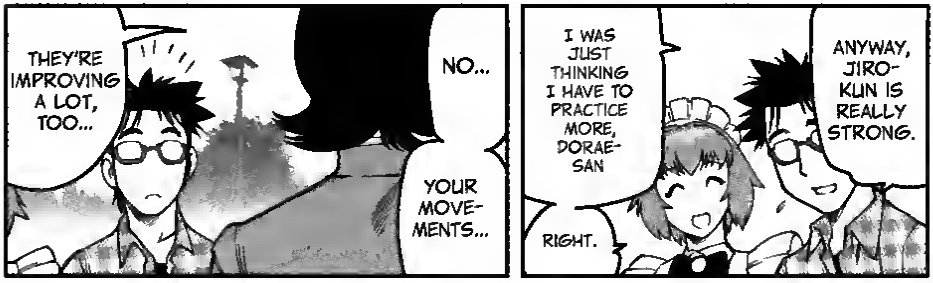

KICK

HE CAN'T REALLY BE STRONG!
I WON'T ALLOW IT! THE RING BELONGS TO REAL MEN! A CUTESY LITTLE BOY WHO ALL THE GIRLS LOVE?
FIRED UP
TAKESHI YAMANAKA FIGHTING STYLE: SUMO
SEEMS LIKE HIS OPPONENT'S REALLY PSYCHED.
CHARGE
I REFUSE TO ACCEPT IT!

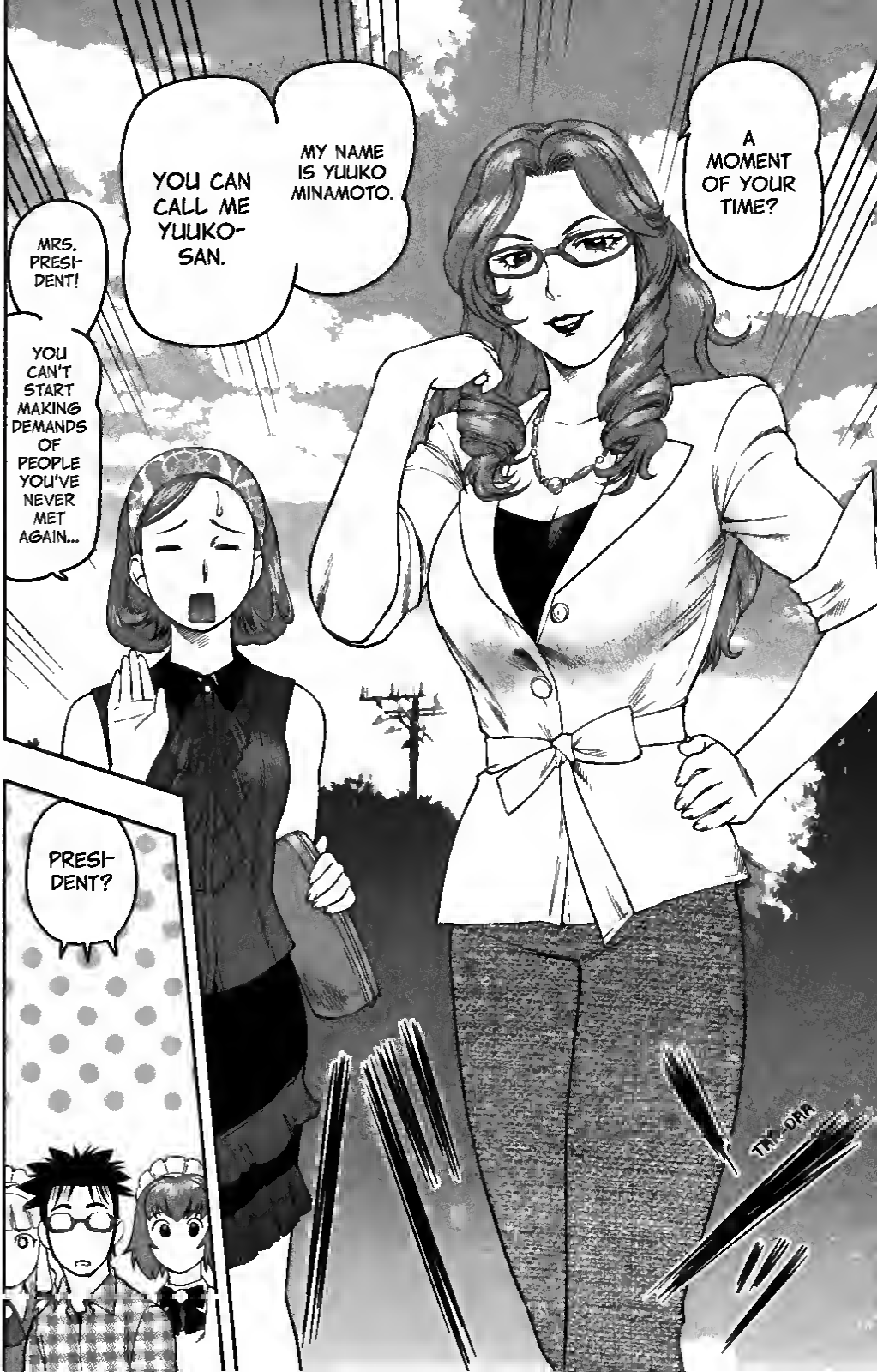
SMACK
ZIP
THE MATCH IS OVER!
THUD
I REFUSE ...
TO ACCEPT IT...
WAH!
DIZZY
TMP

A MASTER OF THE MYSTERIOUS CHINESE TAI CHI CHUAN!
AND HE'S JUST AS BEAUTIFUL AS A YOUNG GIRL
I THINK HE HAS PLENTY OF CHANCE TO MAKE IT AS A STAR.
I SEE... HE'S A GOOD CHOICE, TOO.
THE GIRLY FACE ISN'T REALLY TO MY LIKING, THOUGH.
KYAAA!
KYAAA!
.....?

GOOD WORK, JIRO!
BUT COULDN'T YOU HAVE PLAYED WITH HIM A LITTLE MORE?
YEAH... HE WAS JUST SO FIRED UP...I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.
YEAH, IT WAS KIND OF WEIRD. DID YOU PISS HIM OFF SOMEHOW?
I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW...


ANYWAY, JIRO-KUN IS REALLY STRONG.
I WAS JUST THINKING I HAVE TO PRACTICE MORE, DORAE-SAN
RIGHT.
NO...
YOUR MOVEMENTS...
THEY'RE IMPROVING A LOT, TOO...

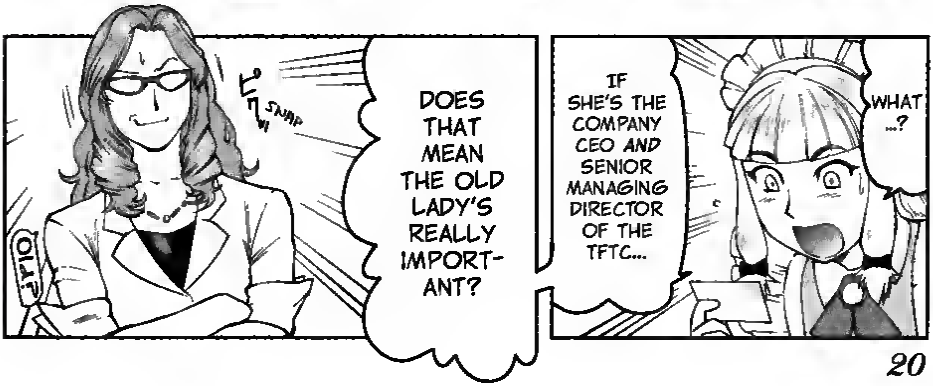
NO, NOT AT ALL...
IF I'M GETTING BETTER, IT'S THANKS TO YOU AND QU-SAN.
DORAE-SAN WAS RIGHT.
YOU HAVE TALENT, I THINK...
YOU'RE MUCH BETTER THAN WHEN WE FIRST MET.
L-LIVING TOGETH-ER?
BUT I DON'T THINK THEY'RE RELATED.
MY REPORT SAYS THEY'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR A WHILE NOW.
WHAT'S THIS? THOSE TWO SEEM LIKE THEY'RE GETTING ALONG WELL...
WAIT! MRS. PRESI-DENT!
AH!
バタン!!!
SLAM
I'VE GOT IT! LET'S GO, ASUKA!
TWO UNIQUE YOUNG MEN LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF?
WHAT AN INDECENT- I MEAN, IMAGINATION-STIMULATING SITUATION!
WHAT KIND OF IMAGINA-TION?
FIRED UP
EXCUSE ME!
SMACK


A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME?
MY NAME IS YUUKO MINAMOTO.
YOU CAN CALL ME YUUKO-SAN.
MRS. PRESIDENT!
YOU CAN'T START MAKING DEMANDS OF PEOPLE YOU'VE NEVER MET AGAIN...
PRESIDENT?
TK-DRR

TA-DUM
WDN
TAA-DAAA
Chief Executive Officer
御名形 裕子
MINAMOTO YUUKO
TA-DUM

WELCOME TO WALKURE DOT NET!
I AM THE COMPANY PRESIDENT, AND TFTC—TSUMANUIDA FIGHT TOWN COMMITTEE—SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR!
MINAMOTO YUUKO!
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, YOU CAN CALL ME YUUKO-SAN.

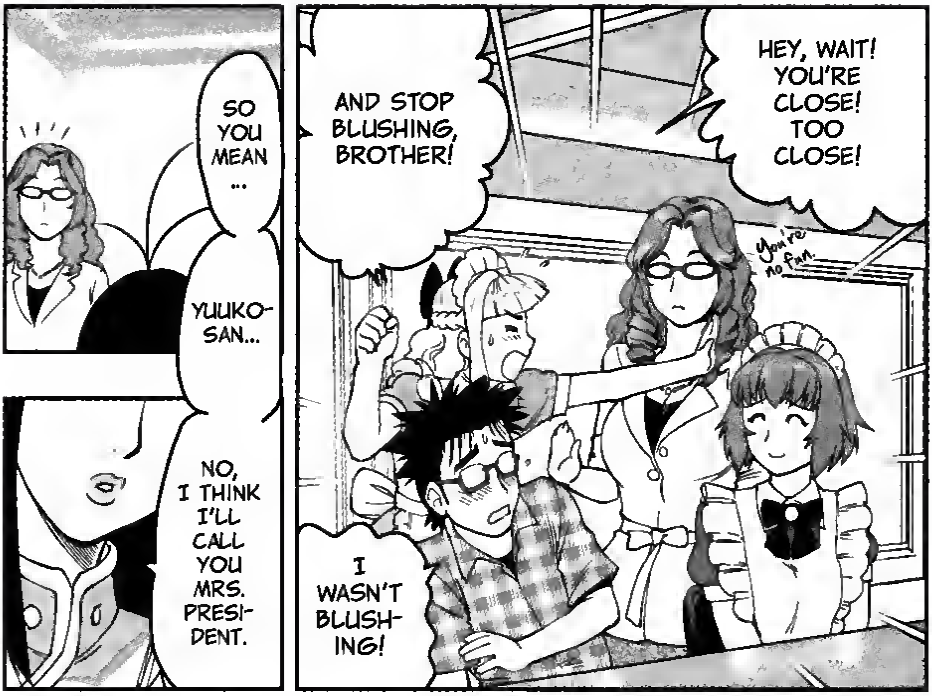
UM... I THINK I'VE HEARD OF WALKURE DOT NET SOMEWHERE.
YOU HAVE.
WDN IS THE COMPANY IN CHARGE OF TSUMANUDA'S ENTIRE NET INFRASTRUCTURE.
THEY'RE A MAJOR SPONSOR WHO WORKS WITH THE TFTC.

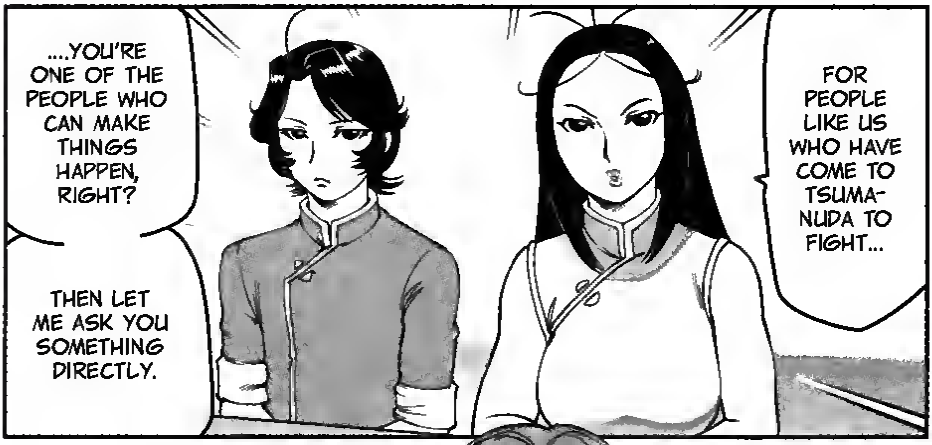

WHAT...?
IF SHE'S THE COMPANY CEO AND SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE TFTC...
DOES THAT MEAN THE OLD LADY'S REALLY IMPORTANT?
SNAP
CLICK

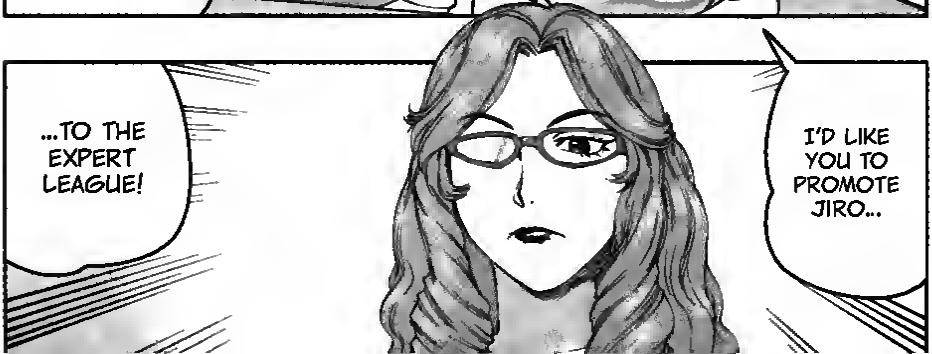
NOT AT ALL!
YES, MY COMPANY AND THE TFTC ARE MANAGING TSUMANUDA FIGHT TOWN...
...BUT THE REAL STARS ARE YOU FIGHTERS!

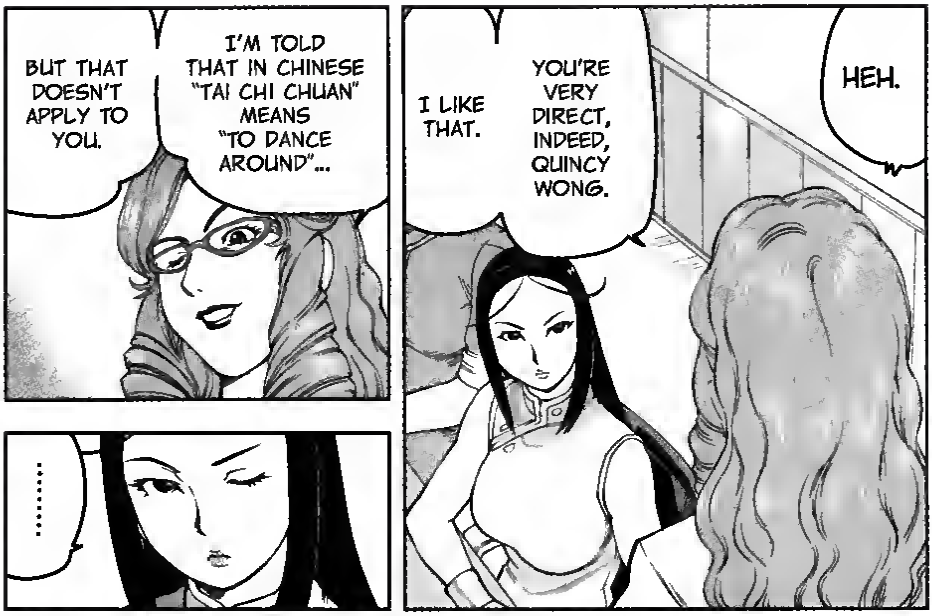
OUR JOB IS TO MAKE THE RULES...
MANAGE THE BROAD-CASTS AND PUB-LISHING...
TNK
TNK
...AND MAKE IT SO THE FIGHTERS CAN FOCUS ON THEIR MATCHES.
TAP
IN OTHER WORDS.

WE ARRANGE TO GIVE YOU YOUNG PEOPLE... THE PERFECT PLACE TO SHINE.
SQUEEZE
DO YOU UNDER-STAND, MITSURU YAEGASHI-KUN?
Y... YES.

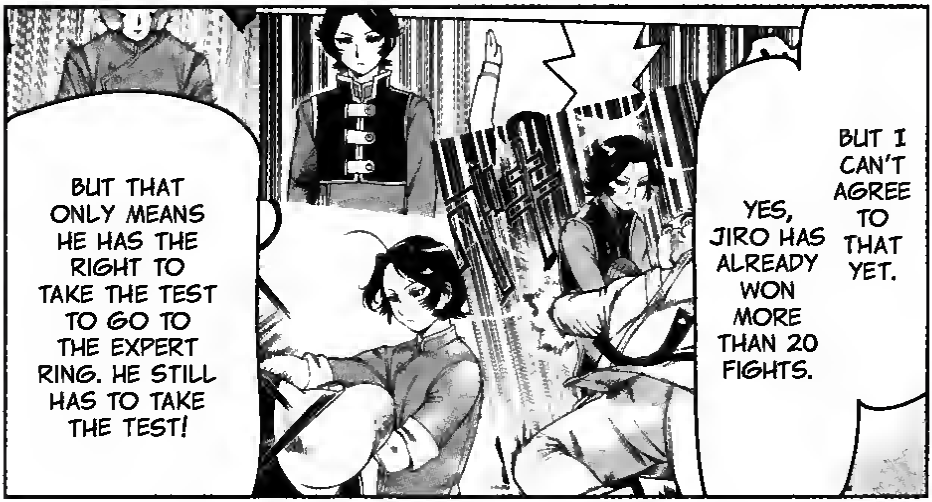

SO YOU MEAN ...
YUUKO-SAN...
NO, I THINK I'LL CALL YOU MRS. PRESI-DENT.
AND STOP BLUSHING, BROTHER!
I WASN'T BLUSH-ING!
HEY, WAIT! YOU'RE CLOSE! TOO CLOSE!
You're no Fun

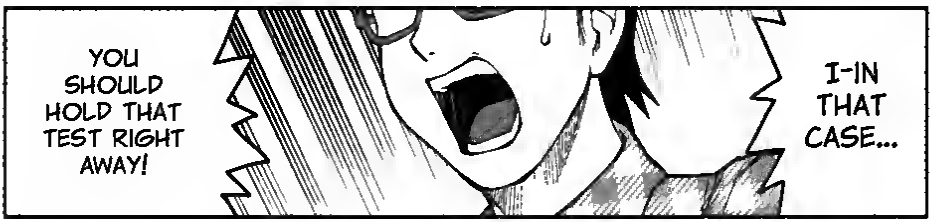

...YOU'RE ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE THINGS HAPPEN, RIGHT?
THEN LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING DIRECTLY.
FOR PEOPLE LIKE US WHO HAVE COME TO TSUMA-NUDA TO FIGHT...

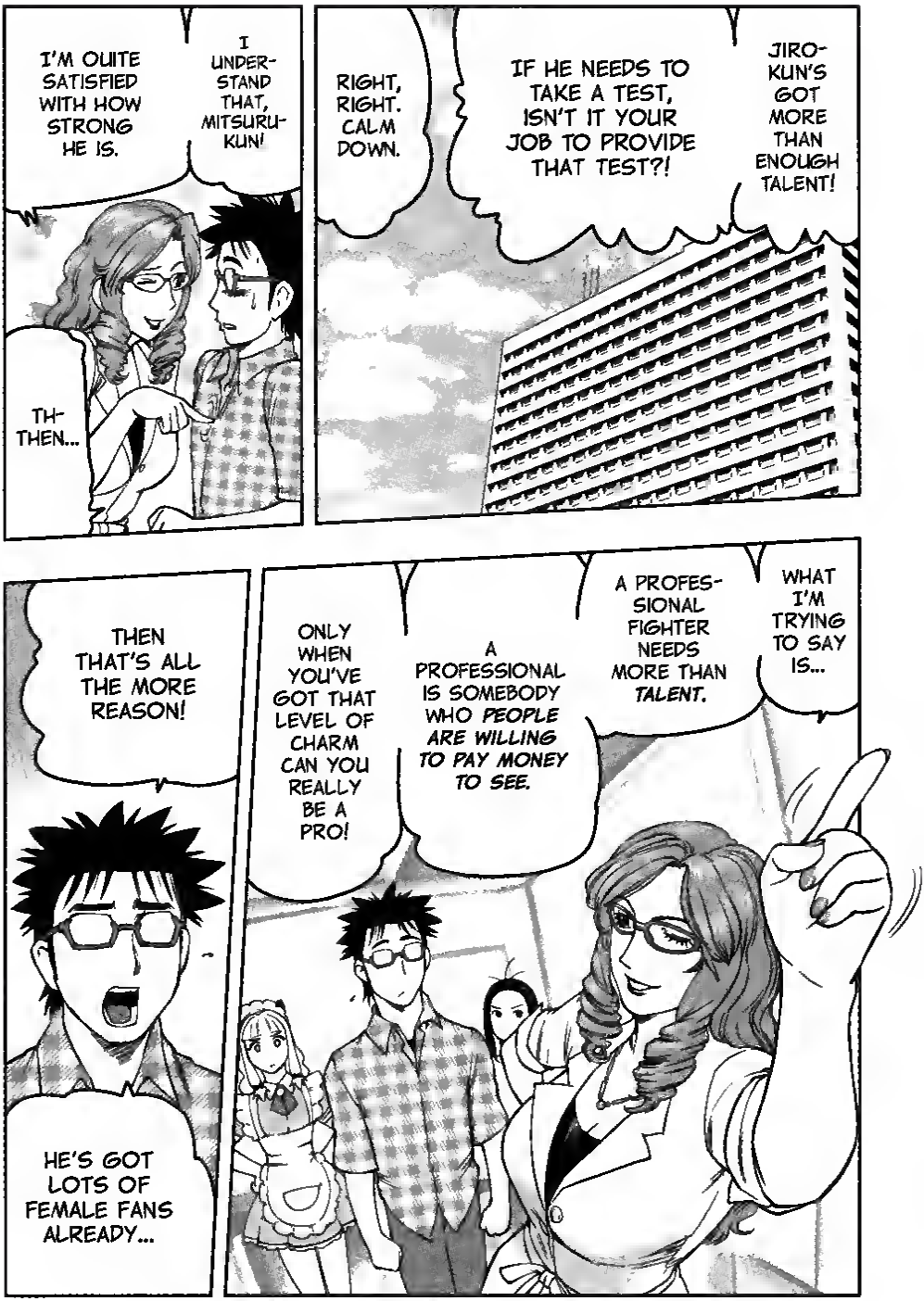

...TO THE EXPERT LEAGUE!
I'D LIKE YOU TO PROMOTE JIRO...



* A similar expression in Chinese means "to dance around an issue and avoid responsibility."

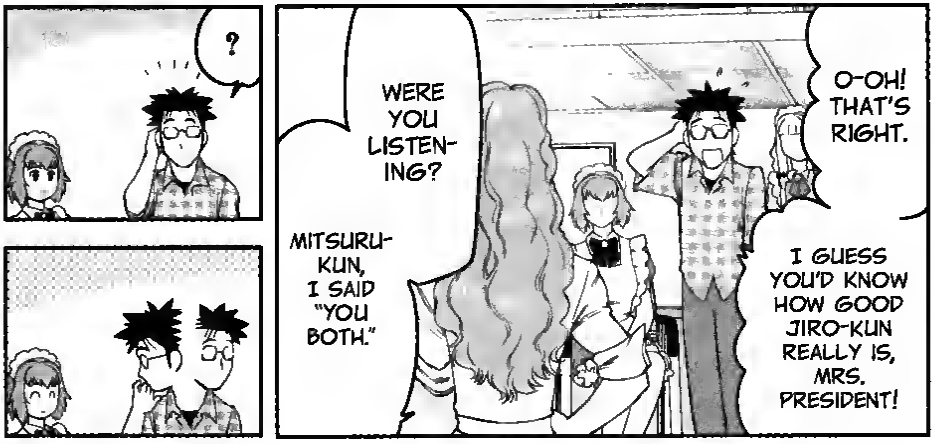




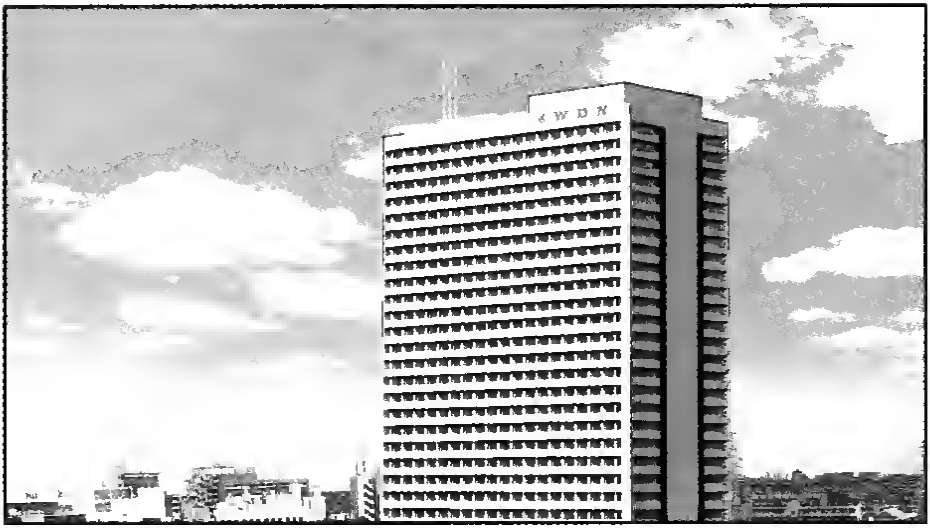

I'M QUITE SATISFIED WITH HOW STRONG HE IS.
I UNDERSTAND THAT, MITSURU-KUN!
TH-THEN...
RIGHT, RIGHT. CALM DOWN.
IF HE NEEDS TO TAKE A TEST, ISN'T IT YOUR JOB TO PROVIDE THAT TEST?!
JIRO-KUN'S GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH TALENT!
THEN THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON!
HE'S GOT LOTS OF FEMALE FANS ALREADY...
ONLY WHEN YOU'VE GOT THAT LEVEL OF CHARM CAN YOU REALLY BE A PRO!
A PROFESSIONAL IS SOMEBODY WHO *PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO PAY MONEY TO SEE.*
A PROFES-SIONAL FIGHTER NEEDS MORE THAN *TALENT.*
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...

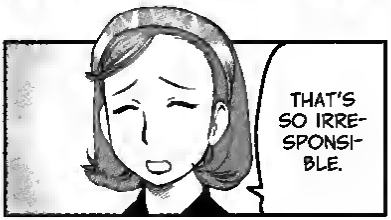
...THE WHOLE REASON I INVITED YOU HERE...
IS BECAUSE I THINK YOU BOTH HAVE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE FUTURE STARS.
I DON'T DENY THAT.
IN FACT ...

AND I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO MY PROPOSAL ABOUT THAT.
IT'S A *STAR!* A STAR WHO CAN DRAW MANY FANS TO TSUMA-NUDA!
WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR ISN'T JUST A PRO.

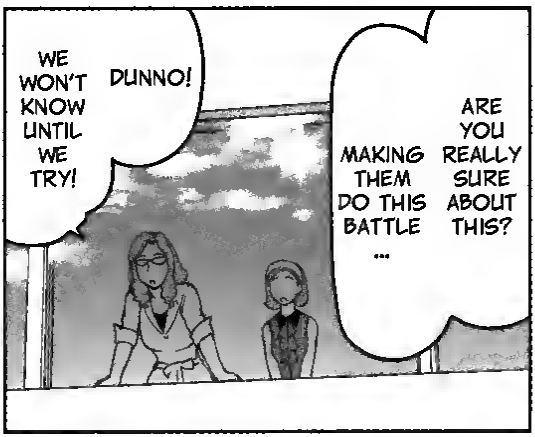

?
MITSURU-KUN, I SAID "YOU BOTH."
WERE YOU LISTEN-ING?
O-OH! THAT'S RIGHT.
I GUESS YOU'D KNOW HOW GOOD JIRO-KUN REALLY IS, MRS. PRESIDENT!

HUH...?
DO YOU... MEAN ME, TOO?
SMIRK



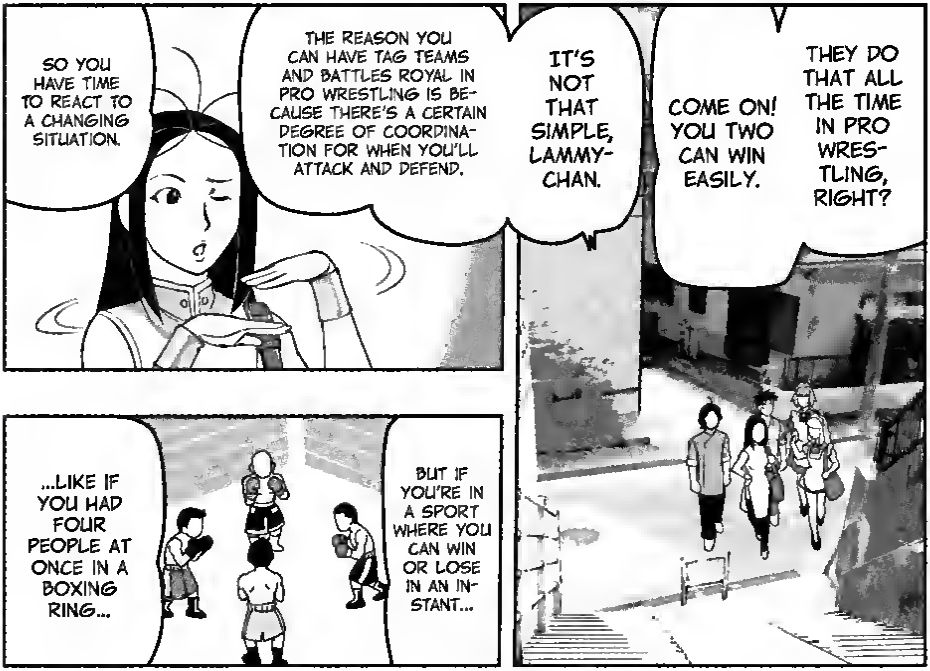

THAT'S SO IRRESPONSIBLE.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH OCCASIONAL IRRESPONSIBILITY!

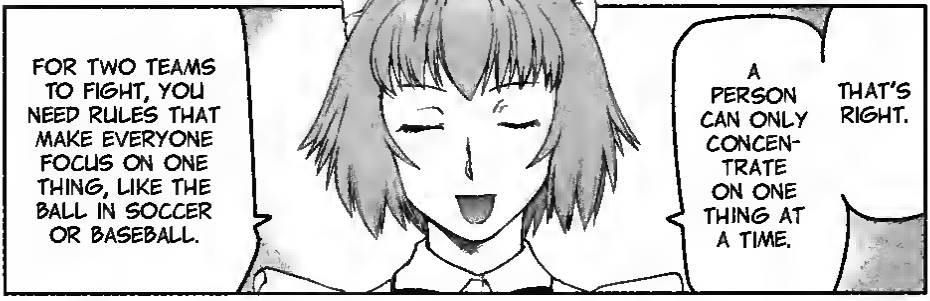

WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE TRY!
DUNNO!
ARE YOU REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?
MAKING THEM DO THIS BATTLE ...

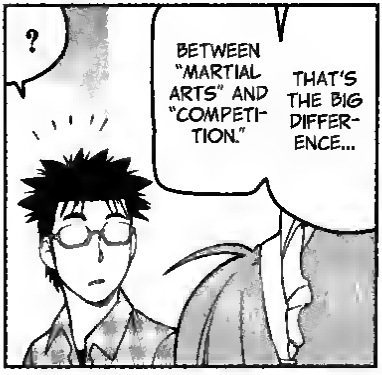
IT'S NO FUN TRYING NEW THINGS IF YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THEY'RE GOING TO WORK.
AND IT'S PART OF OUR JOB AS ELDERS TO GIVE THE YOUNG PEOPLE TRIALS!

SO YUUKO-SAN'S PLAN...
IS TO HAVE MY BROTHER AND JIRO-KUN TEAM UP...
...AND FIGHT A TWO-ON-TWO TAG-TEAM BATTLE?


THEY DO THAT ALL THE TIME IN PRO WRESTLING, RIGHT?
COME ON! YOU TWO CAN WIN EASILY.
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, LAMMY-CHAN.
THE REASON YOU CAN HAVE TAG TEAMS AND BATTLES ROYAL IN PRO WRESTLING IS BECAUSE THERE'S A CERTAIN DEGREE OF COORDINATION FOR WHEN YOU'LL ATTACK AND DEFEND.
SO YOU HAVE TIME TO REACT TO A CHANGING SITUATION.
BUT IF YOU'RE IN A SPORT WHERE YOU CAN WIN OR LOSE IN AN INSTANT...
...LIKE IF YOU HAD FOUR PEOPLE AT ONCE IN A BOXING RING...

IF SOMEONE ATTACKED YOU IN YOUR BLIND SPOT WHILE YOU WERE FOCUSING ON SOMEBODY ELSE, IT COULD KILL YOU!
IT WOULD BE WAY TOO DANGEROUS!
PEOPLE ARE AMAZINGLY WEAK TO ATTACKS THEY DON'T SEE COMING.


FOR TWO TEAMS TO FIGHT, YOU NEED RULES THAT MAKE EVERYONE FOCUS ON ONE THING, LIKE THE BALL IN SOCCER OR BASEBALL.
A PERSON CAN ONLY CONCENTRATE ON ONE THING AT A TIME.
THAT'S RIGHT.


?
BETWEEN "MARTIAL ARTS" AND "COMPETITION."
THAT'S THE BIG DIFFERENCE...

YES.
HOWEVER...
ONE THING, HUH? YOU'RE RIGHT, I GUESS.
THAT'S WHY MOST COMPETITIONS ARE HELD ONE-ON-ONE.

THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF MARTIAL ARTS...
WAS TO HELP YOU SURVIVE IN AN EXTREME SITUATION, A BATTLEFIELD WHERE YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY BOTH ENEMIES AND ALLIES.
SO IT'S POSSIBLE THAT, IN LEARNING TO MASTER MARTIAL ARTS, A BATTLE AGAINST MULTIPLE OPPONENTS...
IS SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE WORTH EXPERIENCING, EVEN IF IT'S DANGEROUS!

.....!

SO MITSU-RU...
IF THAT'S THE TEST, WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE ANYWAY.
YEAH.
WILL YOU HELP US?
!
I WANT TO SEE HOW WELL MY TAI CHI CHUAN...CAN DO ON A BATTLEFIELD!
WANT TO TRY IT, TOO.
I...
STEP
ARE YOU SURE...
YOU WANT TO DO THAT?
BUT I'LL DO MY BEST!
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I CAN DO...
Y-
YES!

I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA...
...TO THOUGHT-LESSLY GO ALONG WITH WHAT MY MOTHER SAYS.
MOTHER?

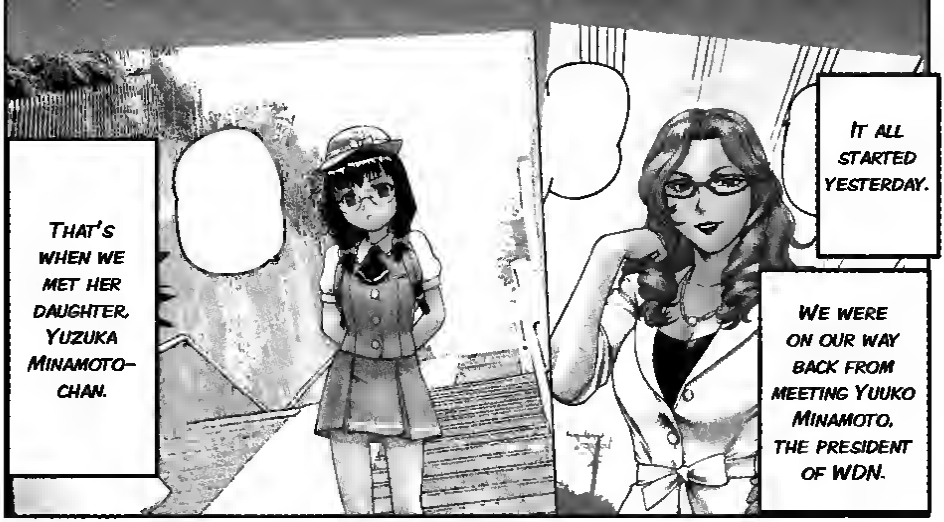
★Eight 13 END★

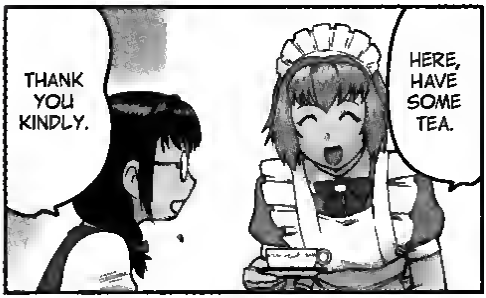
READY...
Fight 14:
Go!
SLAM
ZIP
ポン
CATCH

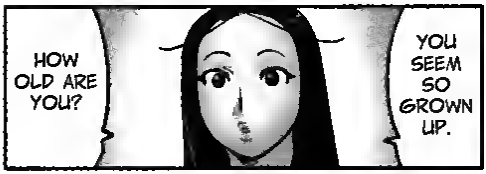
Fight 14: I Wanted Your Autograph

RECEIVE? LISTEN, LAMMY!
WHY ARE YOU DODGING? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, BROTHER?
TSUMANUDA BEACH PARK
SURE, WE'RE HERE AT THE BEACH...
BUT WE'RE HERE TO LOOK FOR SOMEBODY, NOT PLAY!
RELAX A LITTLE!
COME ON, MITTSY!
PLOP
EEK!

SO YUZUKA-CHAN...
THOSE TWO AREN'T HERE YET, RIGHT?
N-NO.
LIKE I SAID, THEY'LL BE HERE THIS EVENING.
SEE?
SO IT MAKES SENSE TO HAVE FUN WHILE WE WAIT.
ALL RIGHT!
I GUESS SO...
EVERYONE LOOKS LIKE THEY DRESSED FOR IT.
AS FOR WHAT WE'RE DOING AT THE BEACH...


It all started yesterday.
We were on our way back from meeting Yuuko Minamoto, the president of WDN.
That's when we met her daughter, Yuzuka Minamoto-chan.


Here, have some tea.
Thank you kindly.


You seem so grown up.
How old are you?

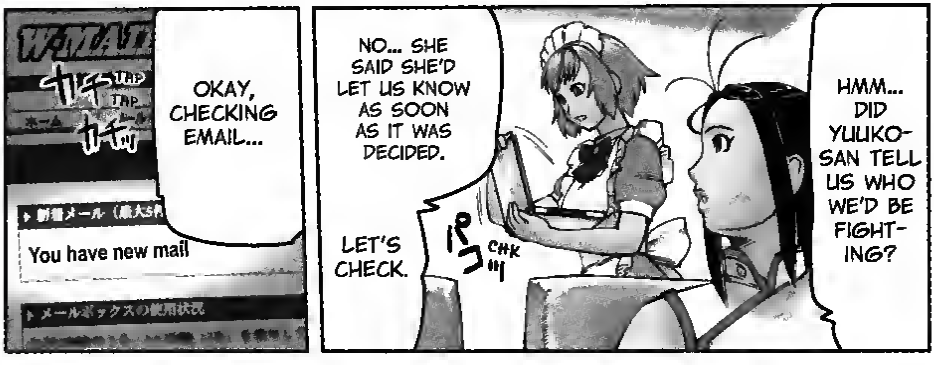
I'm 11.
I'm a sixth grader at Fujikou Academy's Elementary School.

I am very honored that you have invited me here into your home.
Please excuse the intrusion.

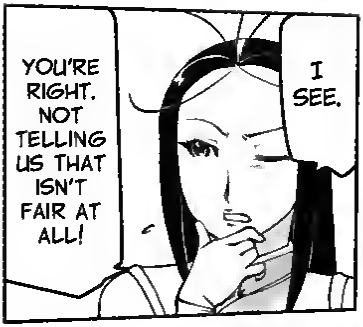
I MEAN, MINAMOTO-SAN... WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
SO YUZUKA-CHAN...
N-NO, IT'S NOTHING THAT SPECIAL...
I GUESS YOU MUST BE REALLY RICH, SINCE YOUR MOM'S A CEO!
FUJIKOU IS A FAMOUS PRIVATE SCHOOL!
R-REALLY ...?
..I'LL TO BE TOO DISTRESSED TO FOCUS
I'M STILL... JUST A CHILD. IF YOU CALL ME "MINA-MOTO-SAN"...
NO, PLEASE CALL ME YUZUKA!
...?
AND I JUST HAD TO DO SOME-THING.
SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT THE UNUSUAL MATCH MY MOTHER OFFERED YOU.
WELL, FIRST...
NAKAJIMA-SAN, MY MOTHER'S SECRE-TARY...

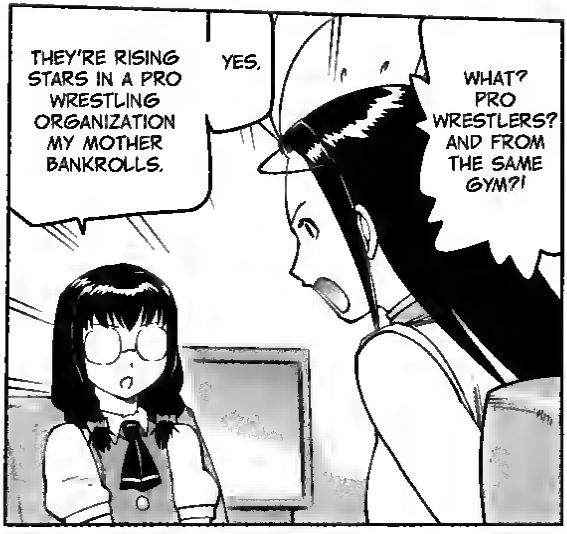
I JUST FELT SO STRONGLY THAT...
HAVING YAEGASHI AND WONG TEAM UP TO FIGHT ANOTHER PAIR...
IT WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNFAIR!

UNFAIR? FIGHTING TWO-ON-TWO?
NO, THAT'S FINE.
THOUGH SOMEWHAT ODD...
BUT THE PROBLEM IS WHO MY MOTHER HAS CHOSEN FOR YOU TO FIGHT.

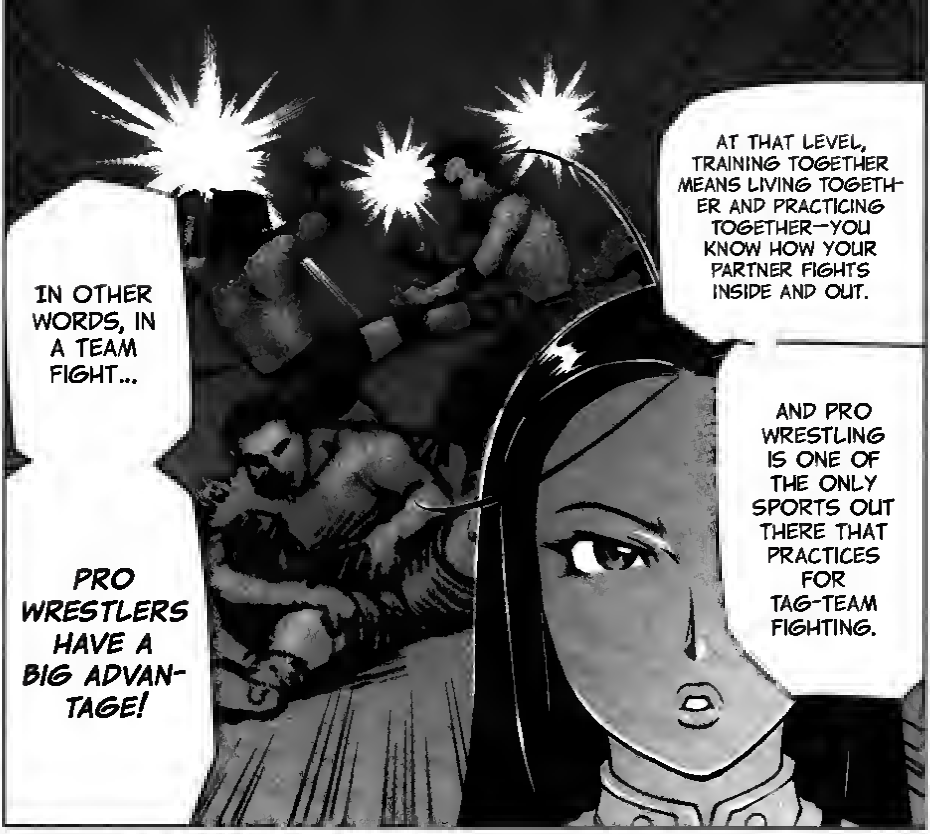

HMM... DID YUUKO-SAN TELL US WHO WE'D BE FIGHTING?
NO... SHE SAID SHE'D LET US KNOW AS SOON AS IT WAS DECIDED.
LET'S CHECK.
CHK
OKAY, CHECKING EMAIL...
You have new mail

HERE'S THE INFORMATION ON OUR OPPONENTS.
HURRICANE MASK 1 AND HURRICANE MASK 2!
THEY'RE YOUNG PRO WRESTLERS FROM THE SAME GYM WHO ARE GAINING EXPERIENCE IN TSUMANUDA.

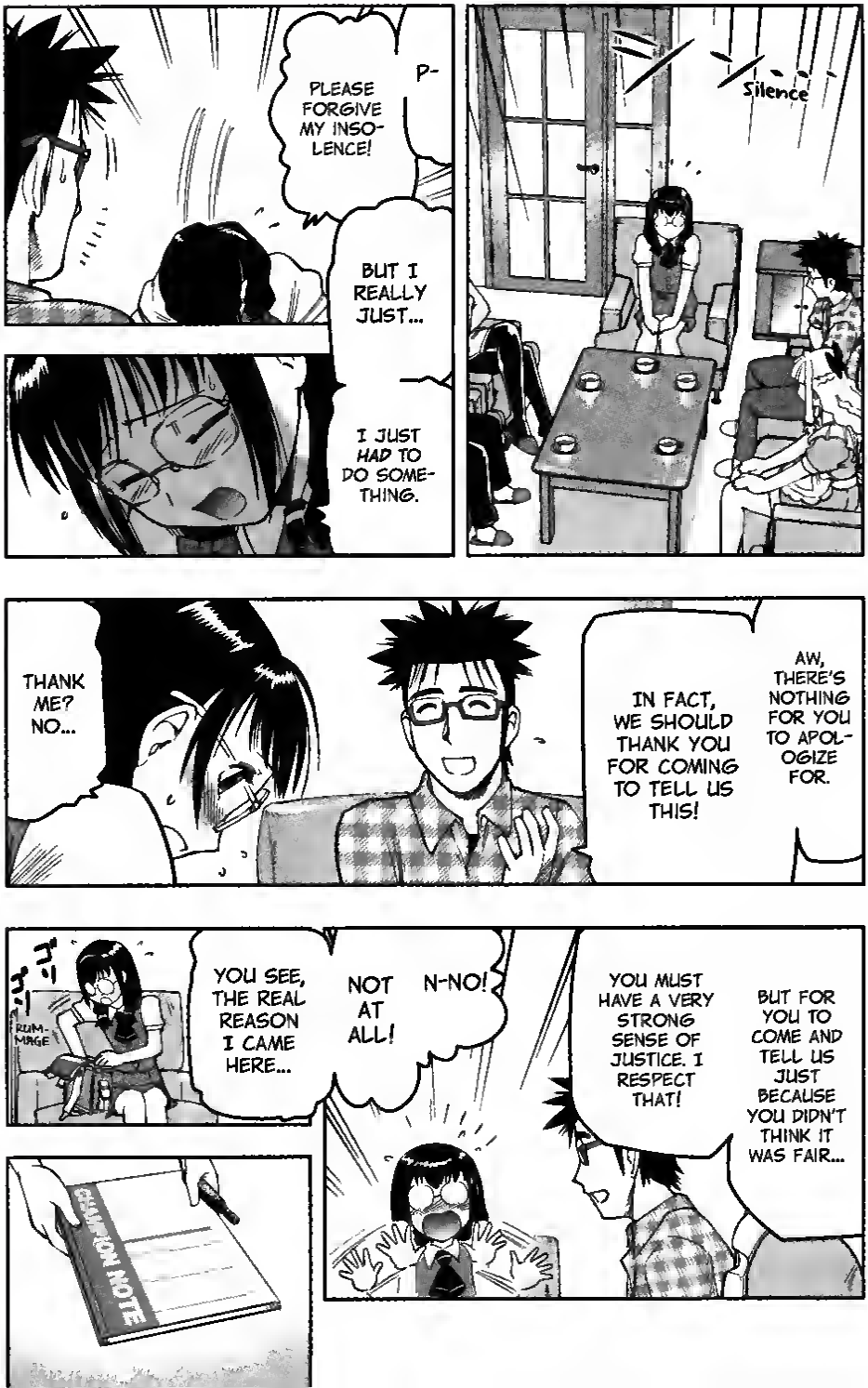

I SEE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. NOT TELLING US THAT ISN'T FAIR AT ALL!

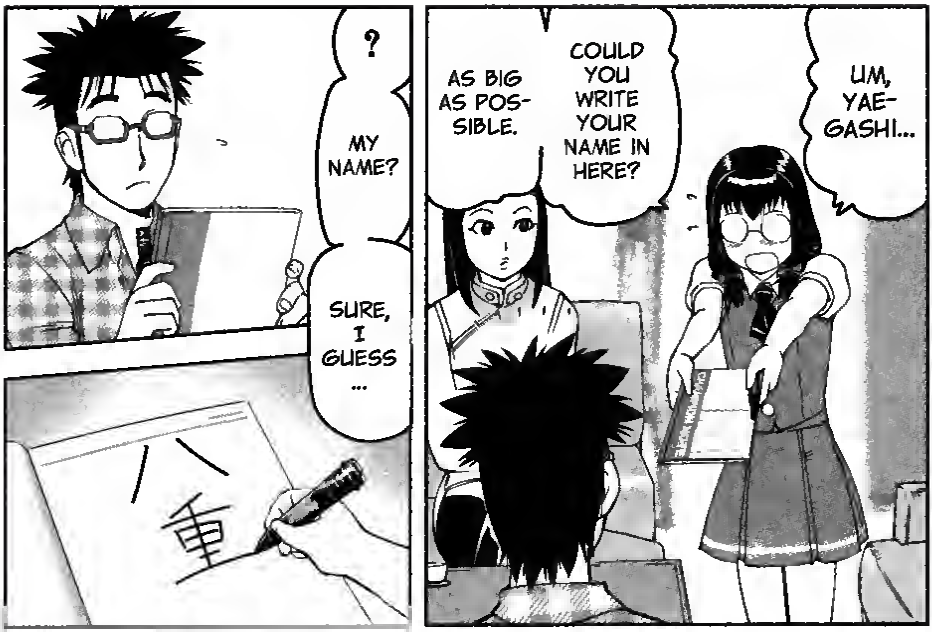

WHAT? PRO WRESTLERS? AND FROM THE SAME GYM?!
YES.
THEY'RE RISING STARS IN A PRO WRESTLING ORGANIZATION MY MOTHER BANKROLLS.

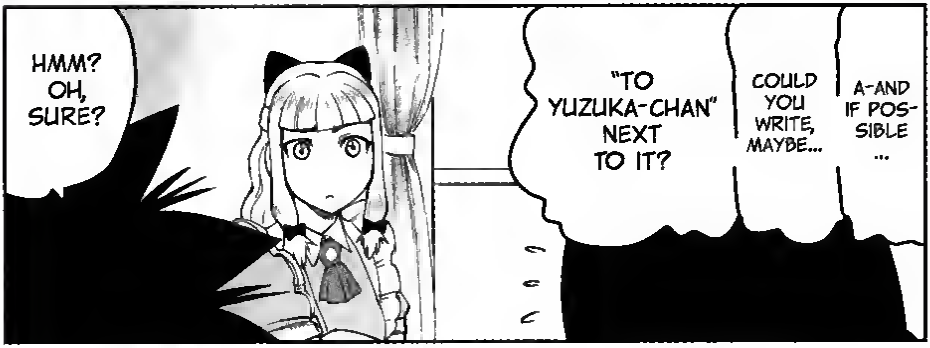
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, QU-CHAN?

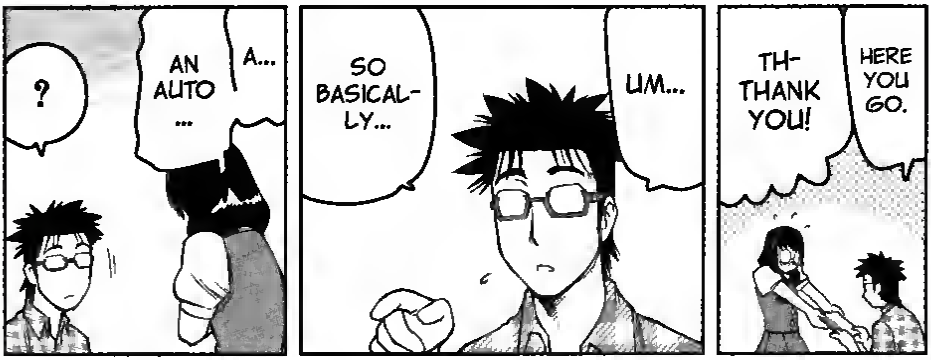

AT THAT LEVEL, TRAINING TOGETHER MEANS LIVING TOGETHER AND PRACTICING TOGETHER—YOU KNOW HOW YOUR PARTNER FIGHTS INSIDE AND OUT.
AND PRO WRESTLING IS ONE OF THE ONLY SPORTS OUT THERE THAT PRACTICES FOR TAG-TEAM FIGHTING.
IN OTHER WORDS, IN A TEAM FIGHT...
PRO WRESTLERS HAVE A BIG ADVANTAGE!

S-SO...
THEN THAT MEANS IF MY BROTHER AND JIRO-KUN TEAM UP...
YES.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY RUDENESS IN SAYING THIS, BUT...
THE TWO OF YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING!

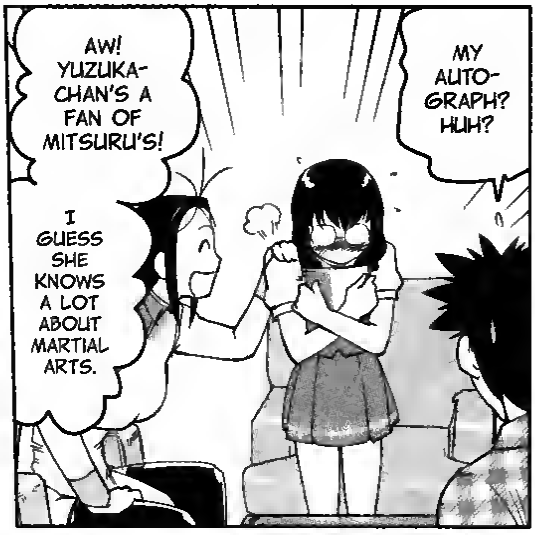

P-
PLEASE FORGIVE MY INSOLENCE!
BUT I REALLY JUST...
I JUST *HAD* TO DO SOMETHING.
Silence
THANK ME? NO...
IN FACT, WE SHOULD THANK YOU FOR COMING TO TELL US THIS!
AW, THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
RUMMAGE
YOU SEE, THE REAL REASON I CAME HERE...
NOT AT ALL!
N-NO!
YOU MUST HAVE A VERY STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE. I RESPECT THAT!
BUT FOR YOU TO COME AND TELL US JUST BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T THINK IT WAS FAIR...
CAMPION NOTE

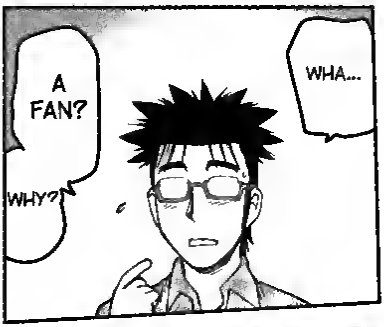

?
MY NAME?
SURE, I GUESS ...
八
重
UM, YAE-GASHI...
COULD YOU WRITE YOUR NAME IN HERE?
AS BIG AS POS-SIBLE.

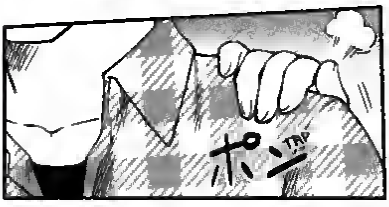

HMM? OH, SURE?
"TO YUZUKA-CHAN" NEXT TO IT?
COULD YOU WRITE, MAYBE...
A-AND IF POS-SIBLE ...


?
AN AUTO ...
A...
SO BASICAL-LY...
UM...
TH-THANK YOU!
HERE YOU GO.

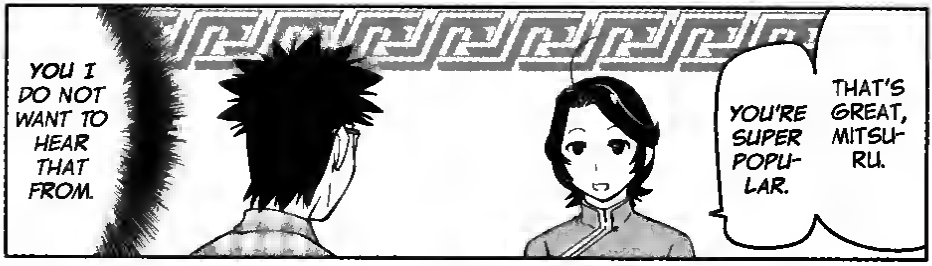
I WANTED ...
...YOUR AUTO-GRAPH ...

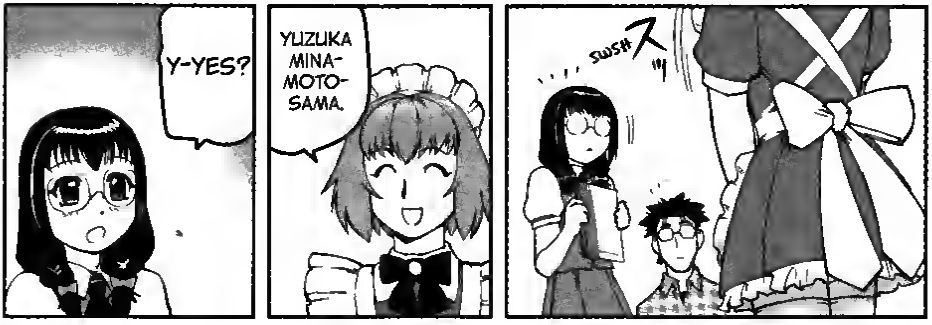

MY AUTO-GRAPH? HUH?
AW! YUZUKA-CHAN'S A FAN OF MITSURU'S!
I GUESS SHE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT MARTIAL ARTS.

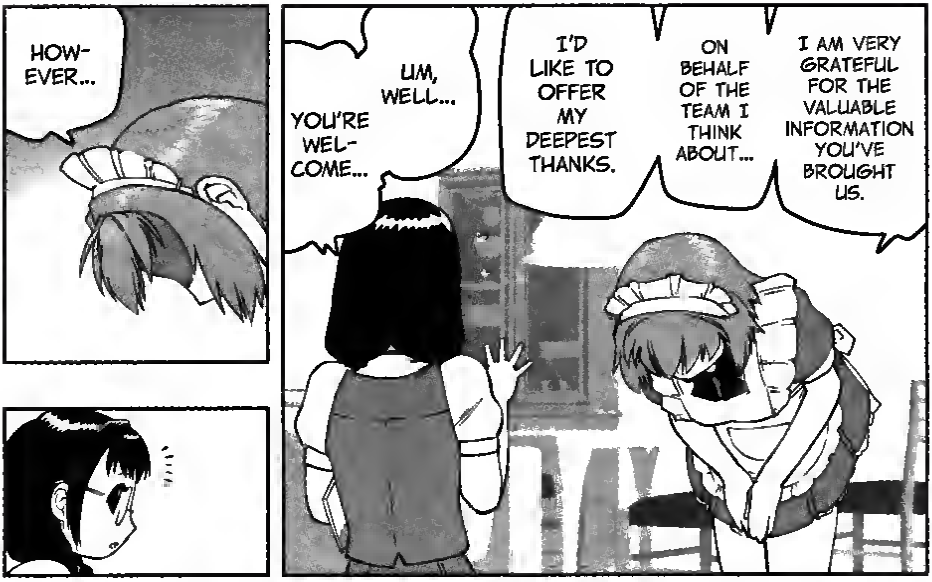

WHA...
A FAN?
WHY?


ポン

* A lolicon is someone who is attracted to underage girls.

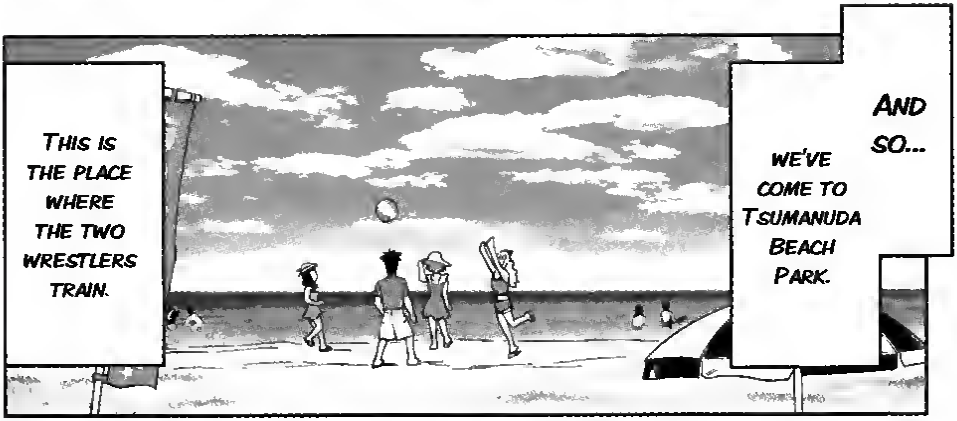





HOW-EVER...
I'D LIKE TO OFFER MY DEEPEST THANKS.
ON BEHALF OF THE TEAM I THINK ABOUT...
I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE VALUABLE INFORMATION YOU'VE BROUGHT US.
UM, WELL...
YOU'RE WEL-COME...

WE ABSOLUTELY MUST WIN THIS MATCH.
NO MATTER HOW DIFFI-CULT...
SO WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO TELL US...
EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR OPPONENTS, HURRICANE MASK?

VERY WELL.
I KNOW WHERE THEY TRAIN. I'LL TAKE YOU THERE TOMORROW.
THANK YOU, YUZUKA-SAN!


AND SO...
WE'VE COME TO TSUMANUDA BEACH PARK.
THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THE TWO WRESTLERS TRAIN.

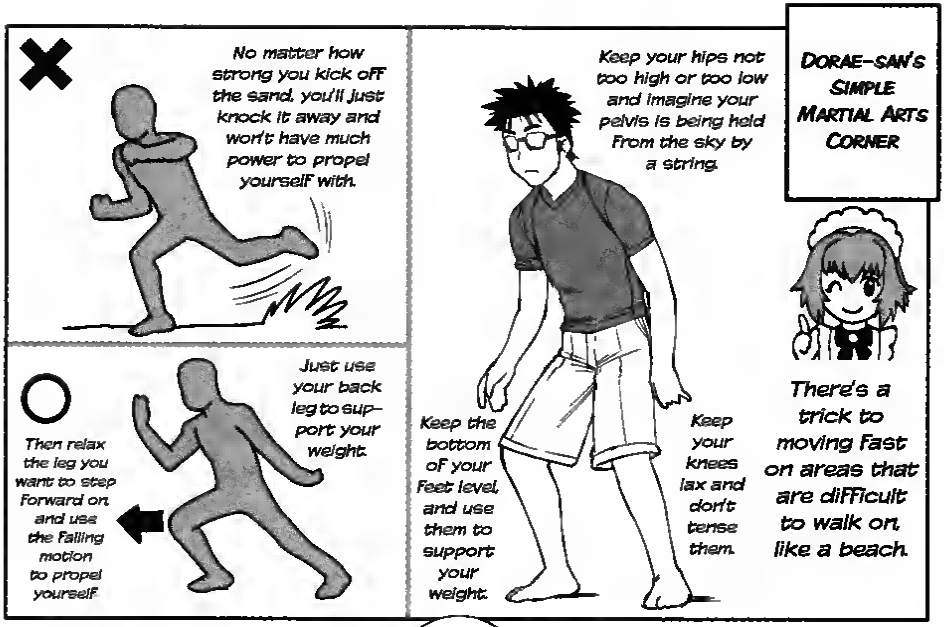
AH!
BOUNCE
ボヨヨン
!!
CROUCH

CATCH
WAP
ホムッ

COME TO THINK OF IT...
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MOVE AROUND ON THE BEACH LIKE THIS?

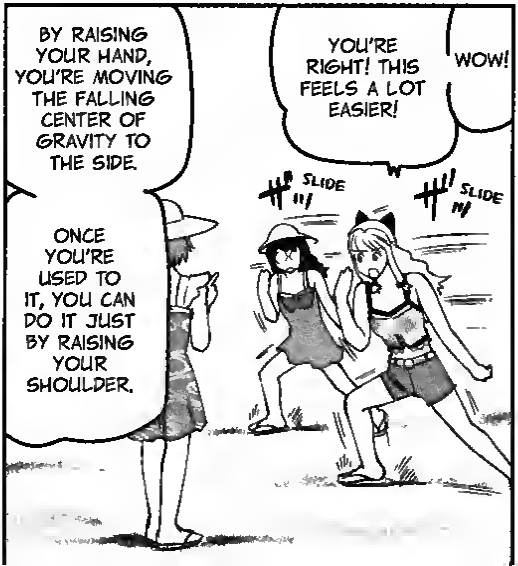
HUH?
THAT WAS AMAZING, YAEGASHI!
THAT YOU CAN REACH THAT FAR ON A SANDY BEACH...
SHE'S RIGHT! BUT YOU'VE NEVER PLAYED VOLLEYBALL, HAVE YOU, BROTHER?

IT'S YOUR TRAINING.
YOU'VE MASTERED MEIDOU STYLE "WALKING WITHOUT LEAVING THE GROUND."
LEAVING THE GROUND?


No matter how strong you kick off the sand, you'll just knock it away and won't have much power to propel yourself with.
Keep your hips not too high or too low and imagine your pelvis is being held from the sky by a string.
Dorae-san's Simple Martial Arts Corner
Just use your back leg to support your weight.
Then relax the leg you want to step forward on, and use the falling motion to propel yourself.
Keep the bottom of your feet level, and use them to support your weight.
Keep your knees lax and don't tense them.
There's a trick to moving fast on areas that are difficult to walk on, like a beach.

...IF YOU RAISE UP THE FOREARM OF THE SIDE YOU'RE MOVING FORWARD ON, YOU'LL FIND IT EASIER TO KEEP YOUR BALANCE.
WHEN YOU RELAX YOUR KNEE AND ARE ABOUT TO FALL...

...EVEN IN PLACES LIKE THIS.
I SEE. I GUESS BASIC MARTIAL ARTS MOVEMENT COMES IN HANDY...


BY RAISING YOUR HAND, YOU'RE MOVING THE FALLING CENTER OF GRAVITY TO THE SIDE.
ONCE YOU'RE USED TO IT, YOU CAN DO IT JUST BY RAISING YOUR SHOULDER.
YOU'RE RIGHT! THIS FEELS A LOT EASIER!
WOW!
SLIDE
SLIDE

PYUUU
FSSHT
SIZZLE
SMACK
!?
FIRE-WORKS ?!
HEY!
RUMBLE
OH... LOOK, THEY'RE SHOOTING FIRE-WORKS OVER THERE!
PYUUU
PYUUU
THAT'S DANGER-OUS, WHAT IF THEY HIT SOME-ONE?!

(Their shirts say "bika" (meaning beautification and idealization))

RUN!
OH CRAP! IT'S THE GORILLA BROTHERS AGAIN!
RUMBLE
STOP RIGHT THERE!
DAMN IT!
CHK
STEP STEP
TOSS
TAKE THAT!
SPARK
BUT WOULDN'T IT BE FASTER IF HE GOT OFF THE TIRE?
AND THE MAN ON THE TIRE MUST HAVE EXCELLENT BALANCE, TOO.
HE MUST HAVE AMAZING LEG STRENGTH. HE'S PULLING THAT TIRE LIKE IT WAS NOTHING!
RUMBLE

FWSH
GUST
BARK
GUST
BANG
BANG
POP
SLIP
GRAAA
WOOF

DOGS AREN'T ALLOWED ON THE BEACH EITHER, YOU DUMMY!
OH NO, THE DOG'S PANICKING!
CHARGE
ワウウッ!!
WOOF WOOF
WHA...
CHARGE

!
COME HERE!
WATCH OUT, YUZUKA-CHAN!

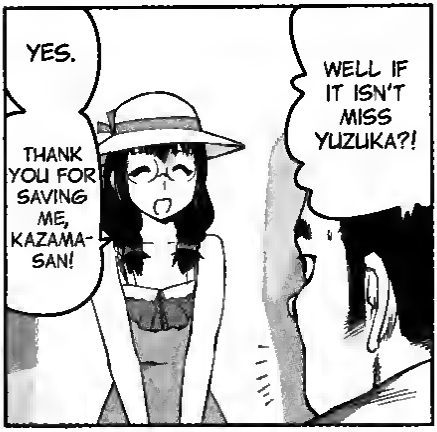
RUMBLE

RIGHT!
BRO!

RUMBLE
SPIN
GLENCH
STEP
LIFT

GRAB
FLING

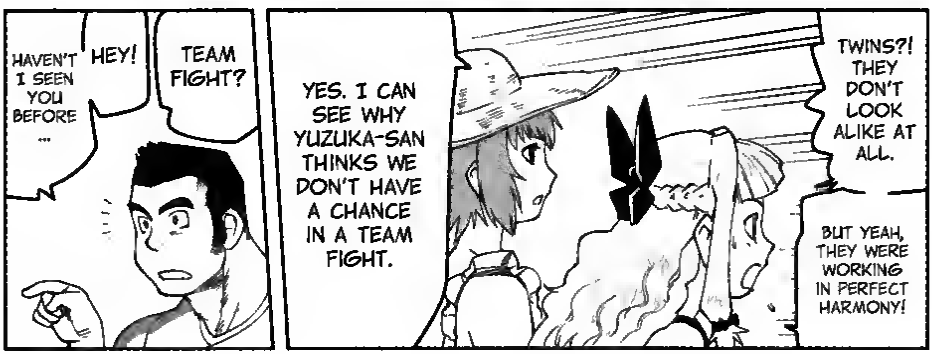
ARE YOU OKAY, YUZUKA-CHAN?
Y-YES.
YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO MOVE ON SAND, AND THAT SAVED ME.
SLAM
FALL

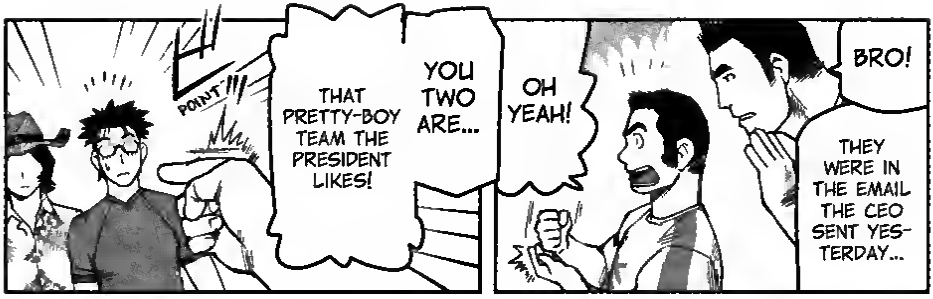

WELL IF IT ISN'T MISS YUZUKA?!
YES.
THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME, KAZAMA-SAN!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WOOF
HEY, STAY STILL!
YOU HURT, MISS?

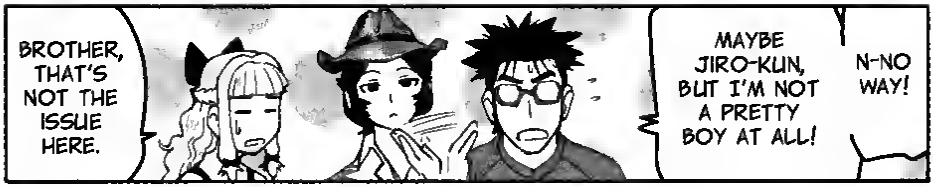
!!
ARE THESE TWO...

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
THE BIGGER ONE IS HURRICANE MASK 1, GOUKI KAZAMA-SAN.
THE SMALLER IS HURRICANE MASK 2, EIJI KAZAMA-SAN.
THEY'RE TWIN BROTHERS!
美化


HAVEN'T I SEEN YOU BEFORE ...
HEY!
TEAM FIGHT?
YES. I CAN SEE WHY YUZUKA-SAN THINKS WE DON'T HAVE A CHANCE IN A TEAM FIGHT.
TWINS?! THEY DON'T LOOK ALIKE AT ALL.
BUT YEAH, THEY WERE WORKING IN PERFECT HARMONY!


EH!
POINT!!!
THAT PRETTY-BOY TEAM THE PRESIDENT LIKES!
YOU TWO ARE...
OH YEAH!
BRO!
THEY WERE IN THE EMAIL THE CEO SENT YESTERDAY...

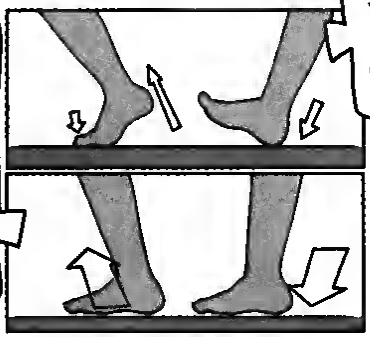
EVEN IF WE'RE UP AGAINST TOTAL BEGINNERS!
ONCE HURRICANE MASK GETS IN THE RING, WE DON'T HOLD BACK!
LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE! QUIT NOW!
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴゴ
美


BROTHER, THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE.
MAYBE JIRO-KUN, BUT I'M NOT A PRETTY BOY AT ALL!
N-NO WAY!

★Fight⑭／END★

BONUS

Bonbae-sans Simple Martial Arts Corner 1



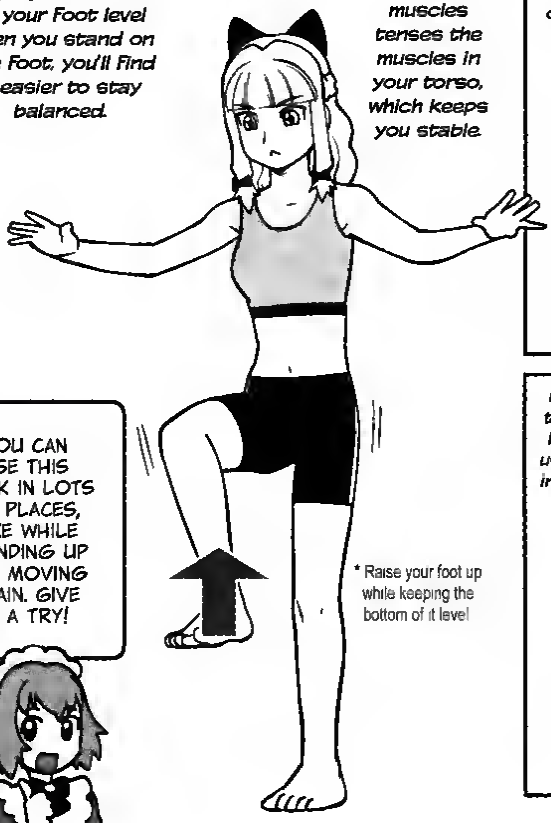
NORMALLY WHEN YOU WALK, YOU STEP ON YOUR HEEL AND THEN STEP OFF WITH YOUR TOES.

THERE'S A WAY OF WALKING CALLED "SURI-ASHI" THAT'S USED IN SUMO WRESTLING AND NOH THEATER THAT'S SIMILAR TO WHAT'S DESCRIBED IN THE "BOOK OF FIVE RINGS."

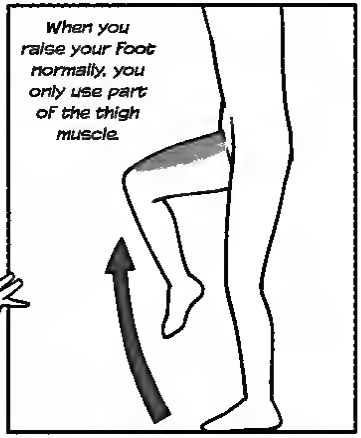
BUT WITH SURI-ASHI, YOU KEEP THE BOTTOM OF YOUR FOOT LEVEL AT ALL TIMES AS YOU MOVE.

IF you Focus on keeping the bottom of your Foot level when you stand on one Foot, you'll Find it easier to stay balanced.

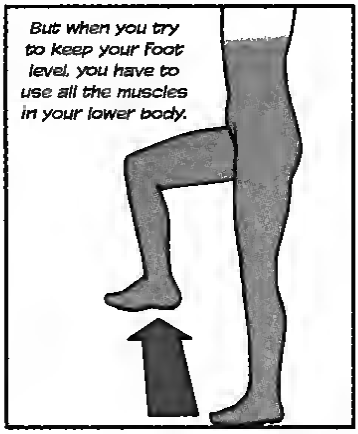
Using all these muscles tenses the muscles in your torso, which keeps you stable.



When you raise your Foot normally, you only use part of the thigh muscle.



But when you try to keep your Foot level, you have to use all the muscles in your lower body.



YOU CAN USE THIS TRICK IN LOTS OF PLACES, LIKE WHILE STANDING UP IN A MOVING TRAIN. GIVE IT A TRY!

* Raise your foot up while keeping the bottom of it level

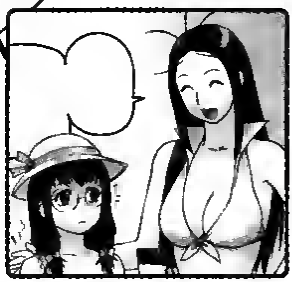
Character Profile 4
Quincy Wong

Born in Taiwan
Age: 26
Height: 5' 5" Bust: 39"

Real name: Qun-Shi Wong
(Goes by Quincy)

She's the type of person who never holds back in saying what she thinks. This is because she never hides things or deceives people.

Since she was little, she has learned tai chi chuan from her father and is very proud of that fact. Wong Family Style Tai Chi Chuan forms the core of her personality, both physically and mentally. Although she has a strong will that doesn't back down, she sometimes lacks an eye for details.

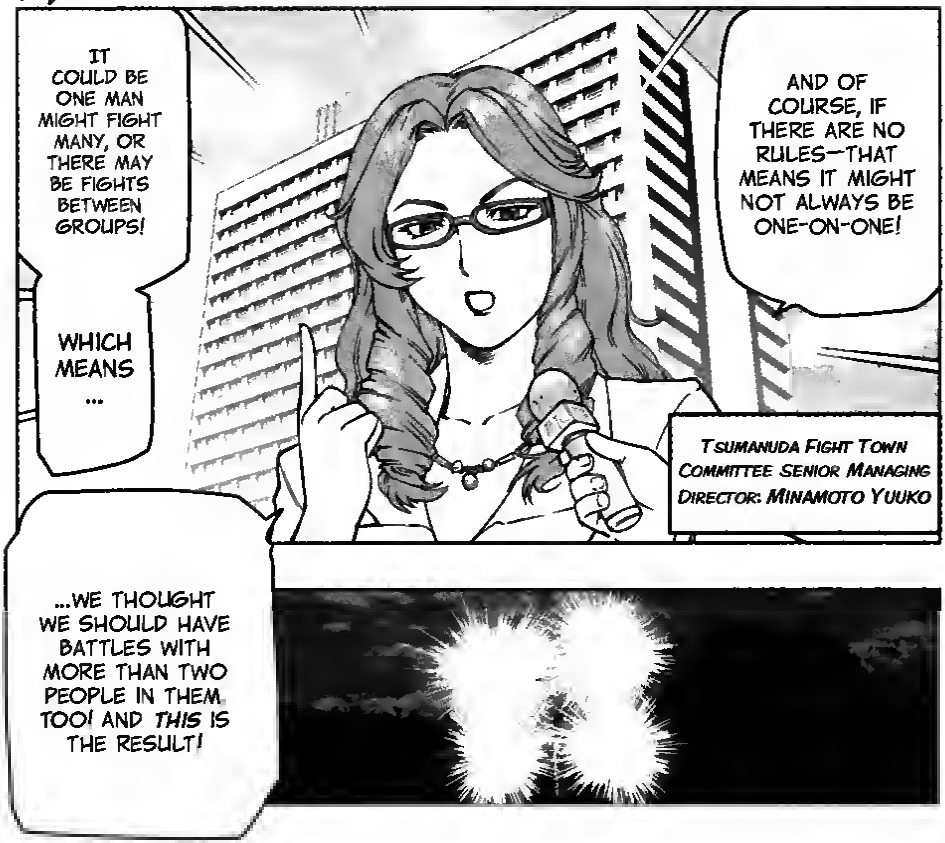


She loves cute things and is kind to children. Her bright personality allows her to get along with anyone.

A glutton who loves to drink, she can consume endless quantities of food. Her weight's under control because she trains heavily right now, but maybe in the future...

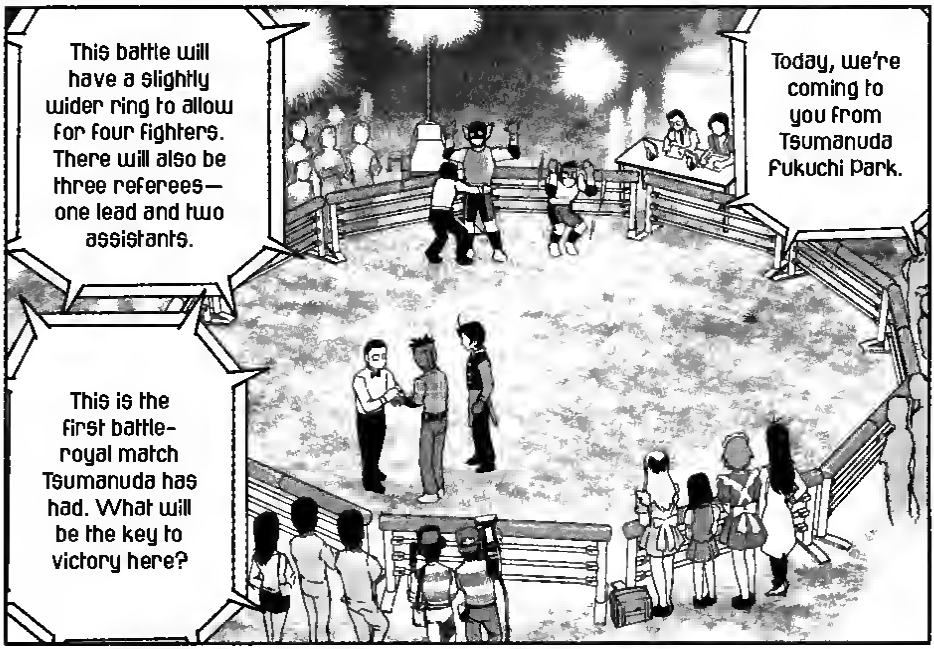
STREET FIGHTING EXISTS IN TSUMANUDA AS A HEAVILY REGULATED SPORT...
BUT ITS ROOTS LIE IN COMBAT THAT COULD OCCUR ANY WHERE AT ANY TIME!
STREET FIGHTING!

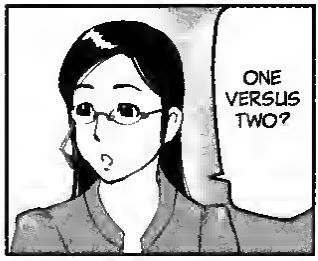
Fight 15:

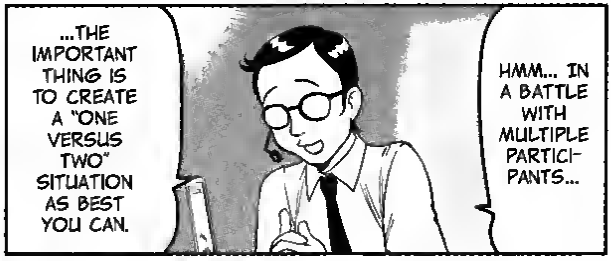

IT COULD BE ONE MAN MIGHT FIGHT MANY, OR THERE MAY BE FIGHTS BETWEEN GROUPS!
WHICH MEANS ...
AND OF COURSE, IF THERE ARE NO RULES—THAT MEANS IT MIGHT NOT ALWAYS BE ONE-ON-ONE!
TSUMANUDA FIGHT TOWN COMMITTEE SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR: MINAMOTO YUUKO
...WE THOUGHT WE SHOULD HAVE BATTLES WITH MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE IN THEM TOO! AND THIS IS THE RESULT!

Fight 15: It Doesn't Have to Be One-on-one!

YES, THANK YOU.
COMMENTARY WILL BE PROVIDED BY ME, KANAE HOSOYAMA, AND OUR RESIDENT MARTIAL ARTS EXPERT, HIROSHI YODOHASHI
THANKS FOR TUNING IN!
* Expert and Championship League matches often have commentators.


This battle will have a slightly wider ring to allow for four fighters. There will also be three referees—one lead and two assistants.
Today, we're coming to you from Tsumanuda Fukuchi Park.
This is the first battle-royal match Tsumanuda has had. What will be the key to victory here?


ONE VERSUS TWO?


...THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO CREATE A "ONE VERSUS TWO" SITUATION AS BEST YOU CAN.
HMM... IN A BATTLE WITH MULTIPLE PARTICI-PANTS...

BOTH TEAMS FORWARD!
LET'S GO OVER THE RULES AGAIN
IT'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS, BUT THE FIRST TEAM WITH A MEMBER WHO CANNOT CONTINUE THE FIGHT LOSES! OKAY?
MURMUR MURMUR

YES...
I'VE GOT IT!
.....
OKAY! READY...

FIGHT!
PING

SILENCE
A two-on-two battle...

It may initially seem like two one-on-one battles fought at the same time, but that's not how it really works!
GLARE

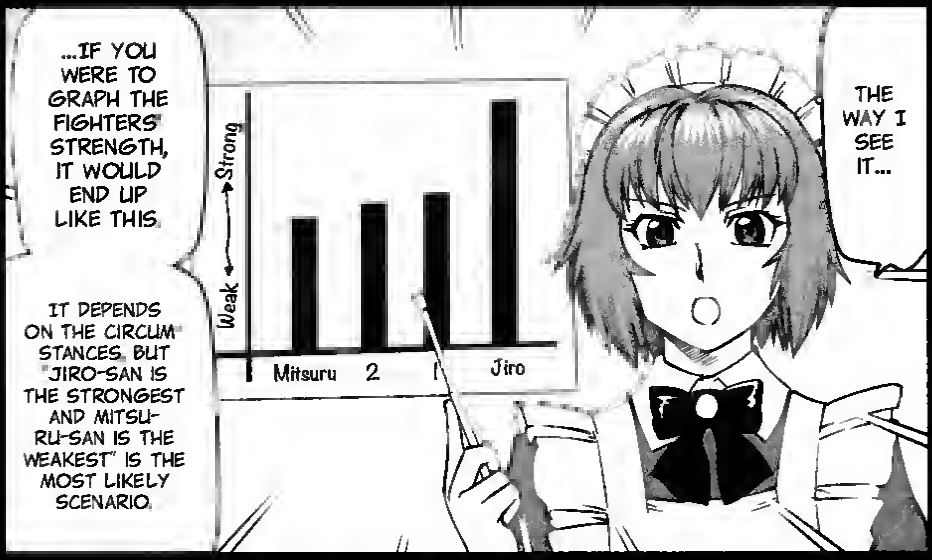
RUMBLE
LET'S GO!

.....!
HURRICANE MASK 2 IS GOING FOR JIRO-KUN, AND 1 IS GOING FOR BROTHER?!
HERE THEY COME!

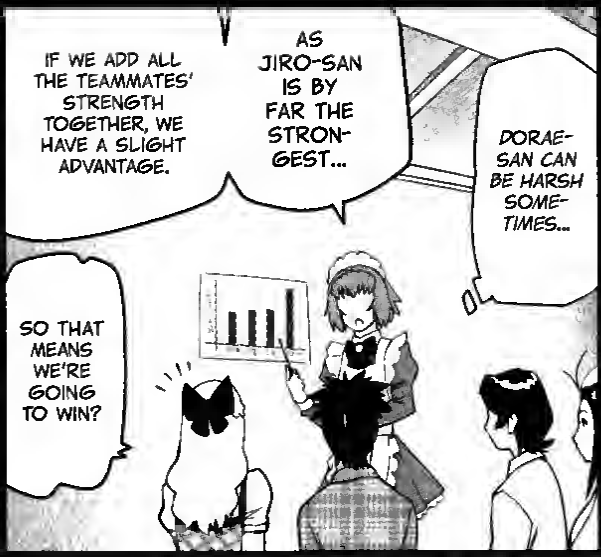
SLIDE
SWOOSH
PIVOT

SLIDE
KICK
PUNCH

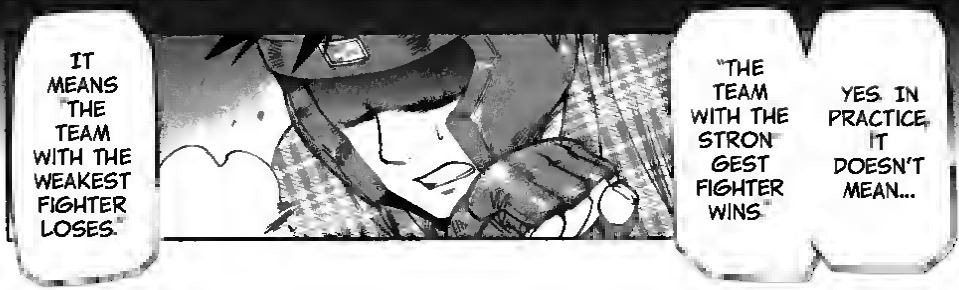
Look at that!
2 looked like he was going for Wong, but he suddenly changed direction!
SLAM
!!
Together, Hurricane Mask 1 and 2 went for Yaegashi!
GET BACK! YOU CAN'T HELP YOUR PARTNER GET UP IN A TEAM FIGHT!
DOWN!
MITSURU!
DORAE WAS RIGHT!
Two! One!
.....


...IF YOU WERE TO GRAPH THE FIGHTERS' STRENGTH, IT WOULD END UP LIKE THIS.
Strong
Weak
Mitsuru
2
Jiro
THE WAY I SEE IT...
IT DEPENDS ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT "JIRO-SAN IS THE STRONGEST AND MITSURU-SAN IS THE WEAKEST" IS THE MOST LIKELY SCENARIO.

IT DOES NOT.
THAT WOULD BE RASH TO ASSUME. WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE IS...
THE RULE THAT SAYS "THE FIRST TEAM WITH SOMEONE KNOCKED OUT LOSES."


IF WE ADD ALL THE TEAMMATES' STRENGTH TOGETHER, WE HAVE A SLIGHT ADVANTAGE.
AS JIRO-SAN IS BY FAR THE STRONGEST...
DORAE-SAN CAN BE HARSH SOMETIMES...
SO THAT MEANS WE'RE GOING TO WIN?

DOES THAT MEAN...?
!


IT MEANS "THE TEAM WITH THE WEAKEST FIGHTER LOSES."
"THE TEAM WITH THE STRONGEST FIGHTER WINS."
YES. IN PRACTICE, IT DOESN'T MEAN...

SO INEVITABLY, THE TACTIC HURRICANE MASK WILL USE WILL BE...
1
PUSH
2
OKAY! FIGHT!
I'M OKAY. I CAN KEEP GOING.
IN OTHER WORDS, WORK TOGETHER TO HIT MITSURU-SAN!
PUSH
...TO CREATE A TWO-ON-ONE SITUATION AS FAST AS THEY CAN.
STEP
IF HE CAN DEFEAT ONE OF THEM BEFORE THEY KNOCK OUT MY BROTHER...
BUT JIRO-KUN IS THE STRON-GEST, RIGHT?

PUSH
HE'S ONLY STRONGER IN A HEAD-ON FIGHT.
TAI CHI CHUAN IS INTENDED TO FIGHT AN ONCOMING OPPONENT.
IT'S NOT MEANT FOR DEALING WITH FLEEING ONES!
WUP
WUP
DASH

LEAP
LEAP

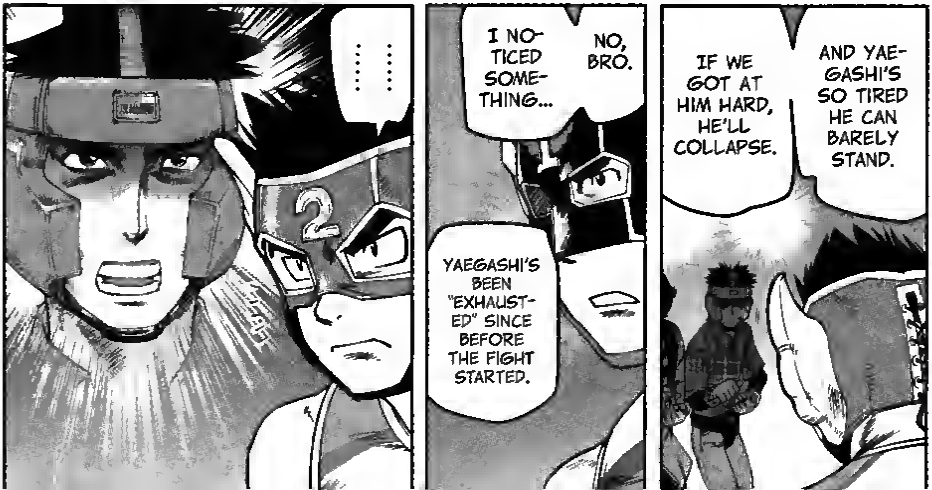
KICK
SLAM
They're in perfect harmony!
UGH...
You can tell they're twins!
They keep going after Yae-gashi!

ONE!
TWO!
……
Yaegashi is down a second time!
Down!
SLAM
HMM …
MAYBE THIS WAS A BIT TOO MUCH FOR MITSURU-KUN.
WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?!
YAE-GASHI-SAN!
STEP
?!
I'M OKAY.
I CAN STILL FIGHT.
Sen-
RISE

Oh-ho! Yaegashi is back on his feet!
FIGHT!
But how much damage has he taken?
Looks like he's been hit pretty hard.
MITSU-RU!
I'M OKAY.
コキッ
CRACK
wow!
おおっ
I THINK I'VE GOT IT.
LET'S TRY "THAT," JIRO-KUN!
?!
POSE
FUSH
FUSH

What's this new stance?
Yaegashi and Wong have gotten right up next to each other!
What sort of plan is this...?
MURMUR MURMUR
I GET IT. SO THEY'RE STICKING TOGETHER. THAT WAY...
WE CAN'T FIGHT ONE OF THEM TWO-ON-ONE!

BUT THAT'S A STUPID IDEA!
UNLESS THEY'VE TRAINED TOGETHER LIKE WE HAVE...
...THE TWO OF THEM WILL JUST GET IN EACH OTHER'S WAY!


AND YAEGASHI'S SO TIRED HE CAN BARELY STAND.
IF WE GOT AT HIM HARD, HE'LL COLLAPSE.
YAEGASHI'S BEEN "EXHAUSTED" SINCE BEFORE THE FIGHT STARTED.
I NOTICED SOMETHING...
NO, BRO.
.....

LET'S GO!
RUSH
STEP
READY
BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE WHAT WE DO!
MAYBE SO...
BUMP
LIFT
FLING
Look at that!
1 has lifted up 2!
It's a flying kick!

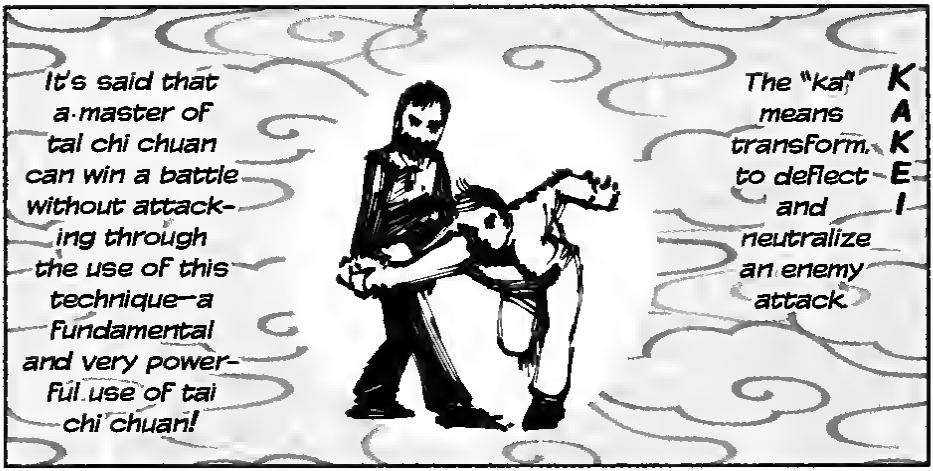
FLING

ROLL
ROLL
Ah!
Uwaaah!
?!
BRO
?!

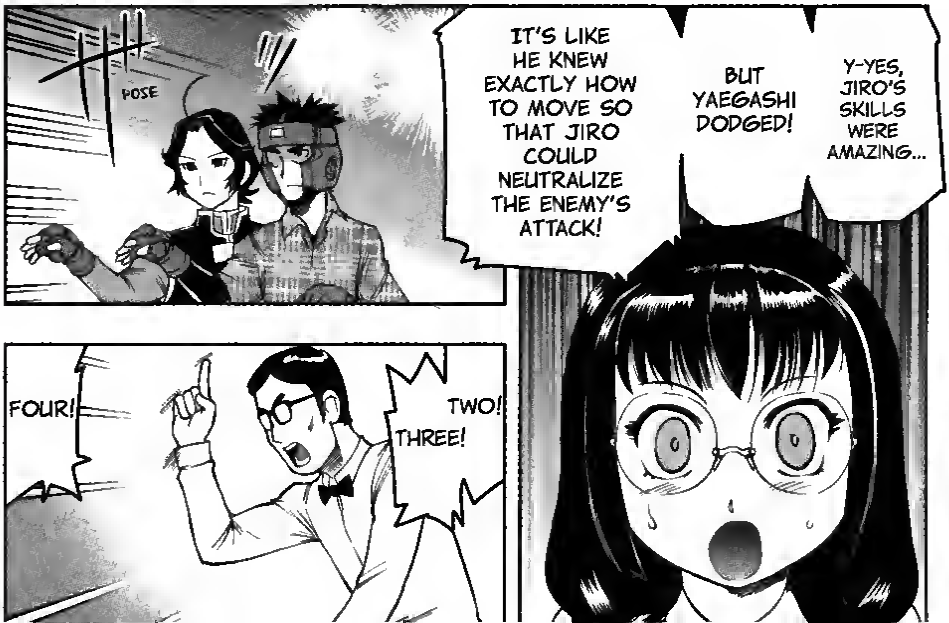
Wong's tai chi chuan...his "kakei" made him miss!
No, he didn't just miss.

KAKEI?

He's rolling across the ground!
Oh my... Hurricane Mask 2's Kneel Kick has gone wild!
ROAR
わあ～
Ha!


It's said that a master of tai chi chuan can win a battle without attacking through the use of this technique—a fundamental and very powerful use of tai chi chuan!
The "kai" means transform, to deflect and neutralize an enemy attack.
KAKEI

YEAH, I GUESS.
TAI CHI CHUAN CAN MEAN "TO DODGE AND AVOID RESPONSIBILITY" IN CHINESE. WHILE THIS INSULTS THE ART, IT CAPTURES THE HEART OF IT MASTERFULLY.


POSE
IT'S LIKE HE KNEW EXACTLY HOW TO MOVE SO THAT JIRO COULD NEUTRALIZE THE ENEMY'S ATTACK!
BUT YAEGASHI DODGED!
Y-YES, JIRO'S SKILLS WERE AMAZING...
FOUR!
TWO!
THREE!

I'M A PRO WRESTLER, YOU KNOW? THIS DIDN'T EVEN SCRATCH ME.
CAN YOU STILL FIGHT, HURRI-CANE MASK?
LET'S GO! LET'S GO!
HI!
BRUSH
OKAY, FIGHT!
FLIP
FIV-
ズダッ
LAND

YEAH, THAT WAS KIND OF A SUR-PRISE.
BRO!
THAT MEANS THEY MUST'VE PRACTICED IN THAT STANCE.
BUT THEY DIDN'T PRACTICE HARD ENOUGH!
THEY WON'T GET LUCKY TWICE!
DASH
TA-DON
TA-DON

IF THEY REALLY THINK IT'S LUCK...
THEN THIS FIGHT IS OURS.
DASH
VUU
THEN WE WIN.
YUP.
They're too fast to follow!
They aren't just rushing at them! They're stepping in and out and changing places!

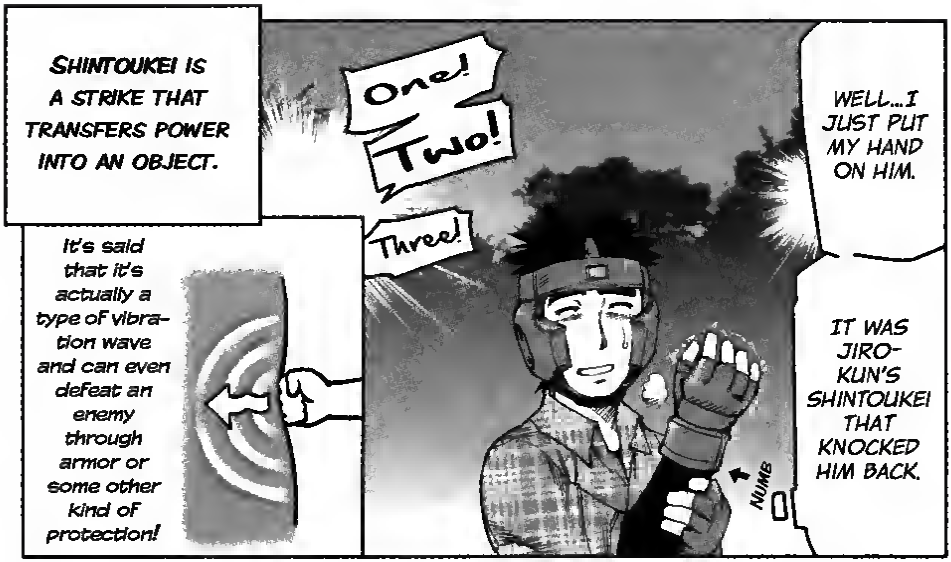
THE ONE QUESTION FOR THIS MATCH WAS WHETHER MITSURU-SAN COULD FOLLOW THE ENEMY'S MOVES.
BUT THE FACT THAT THE TWO OF THEM ARE IN PERFECT SYNCH...
...MEANS THAT IT'S EASIER TO KNOW THE TIMING!
AFTER THE TRAINING MITSURU-SAN WENT THROUGH, HE'LL ALREADY KNOW THEIR BREATHING PATTERN THIS FAR IN THE MATCH.
HUU
SYNCHRONIZED HIGH KICK!
MIDDLE KICK!

SLAM
SUSH
VWP

PRESS
PUSH

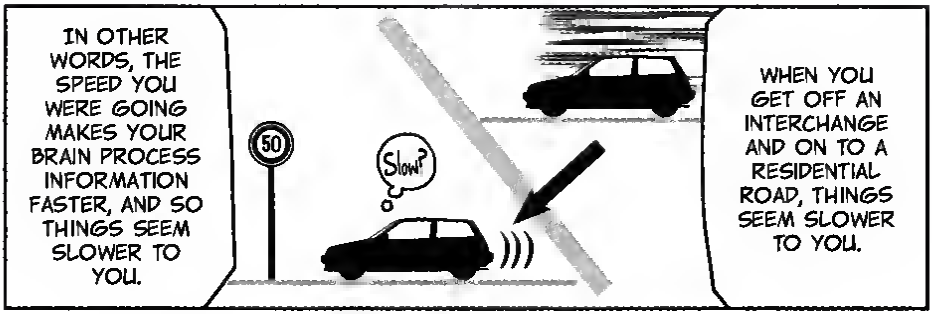
SLAM

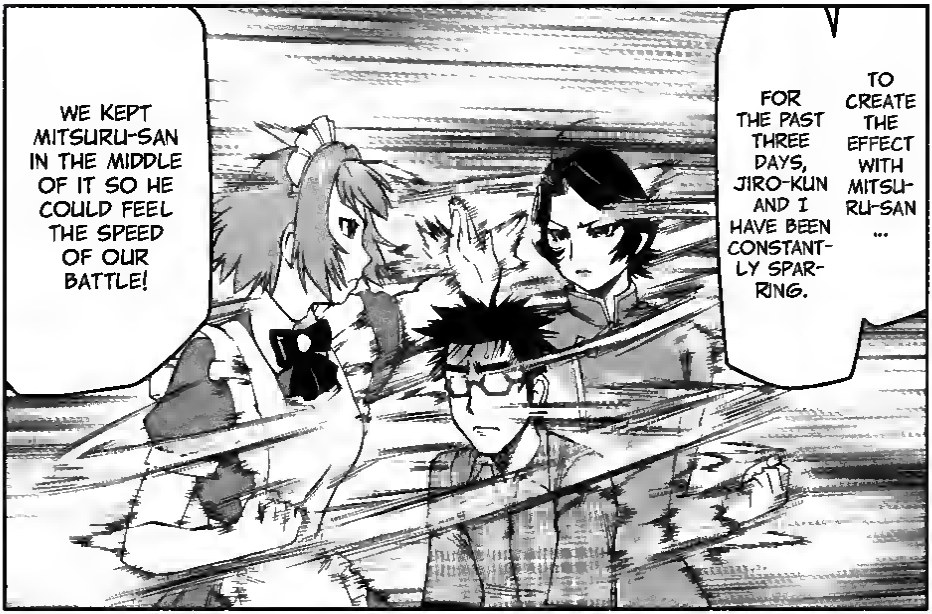
GAH ...!
SMASH!
...and then worked together to slam Hurricane Mask 1 into the side-boards!
WOW
The two of them worked together to block their opponents' attacks..
A-amazing!


SHINTOUKEI IS A STRIKE THAT TRANSFERS POWER INTO AN OBJECT.
It's said that it's actually a type of vibration wave and can even defeat an enemy through armor or some other kind of protection!
One!
Two!
Three!
NUMB
WELL...I JUST PUT MY HAND ON HIM.
IT WAS JIRO-KUN'S SHINTOUKEI THAT KNOCKED HIM BACK.

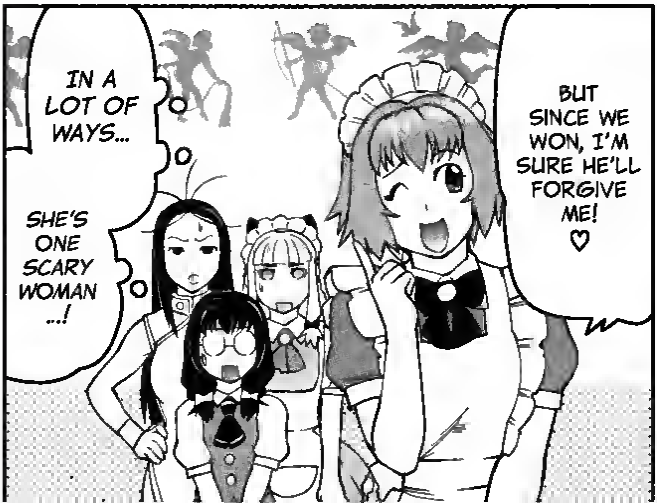
THE WINNERS ARE MITSURU YAEGASHI AND JIRO WONG!
わあぁ!!
CHEER
TEN COUNT!

...BUT IN THIS CASE IT WOULDN'T WIN THEM THE BATTLE.
THE BIG QUESTION WAS HOW MUCH MITSURU-SAN COULD FOLLOW JIRO-SAN. THE REVERSE WOULD BE EASY...
THEY HAD TO WORK TOGETHER...
INTER-CHANGE?
SO WE HAD TO TAKE THE BRUTE FORCE APPROACH. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE "INTERCHANGE EFFECT"?
THE TWO OF THEM MOVED TOGETHER AS ONE IN THAT LAST MOVE.
THAT WAS AMAZING!
WHAT KIND OF TRAINING DID THEY DO TO LEARN THAT?


IN OTHER WORDS, THE SPEED YOU WERE GOING MAKES YOUR BRAIN PROCESS INFORMATION FASTER, AND SO THINGS SEEM SLOWER TO YOU.
50
Slow?
WHEN YOU GET OFF AN INTERCHANGE AND ON TO A RESIDENTIAL ROAD, THINGS SEEM SLOWER TO YOU.


WE KEPT MITSURU-SAN IN THE MIDDLE OF IT SO HE COULD FEEL THE SPEED OF OUR BATTLE!
FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS, JIRO-KUN AND I HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY SPARRING.
TO CREATE THE EFFECT WITH MITSURU-SAN ...

★Fight⑮/END★

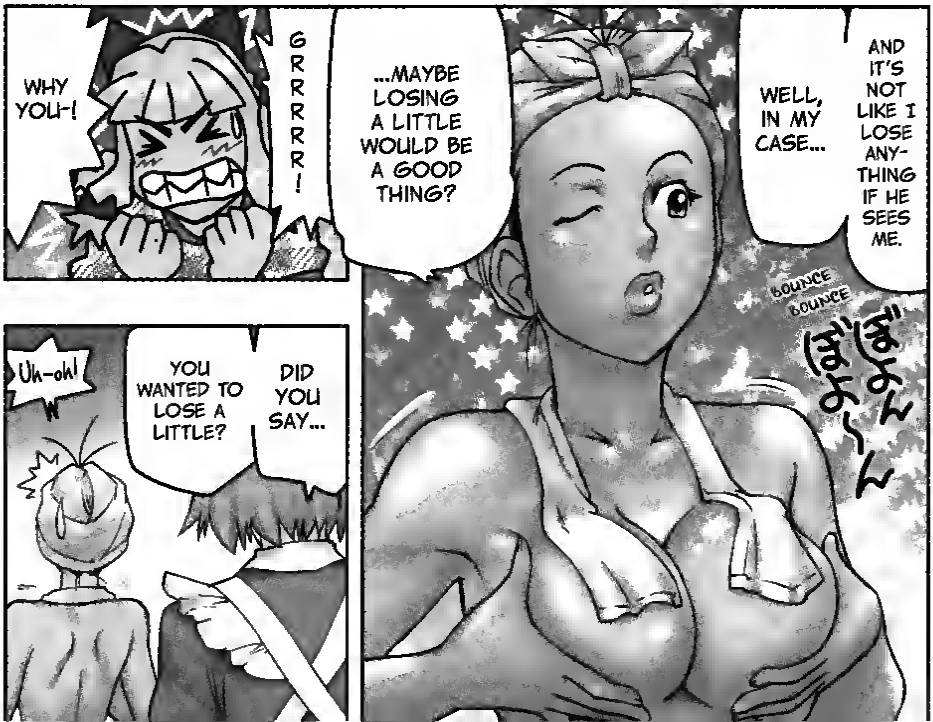

IN A LOT OF WAYS...
SHE'S ONE SCARY WOMAN ...!
BUT SINCE WE WON, I'M SURE HE'LL FORGIVE ME! ♡

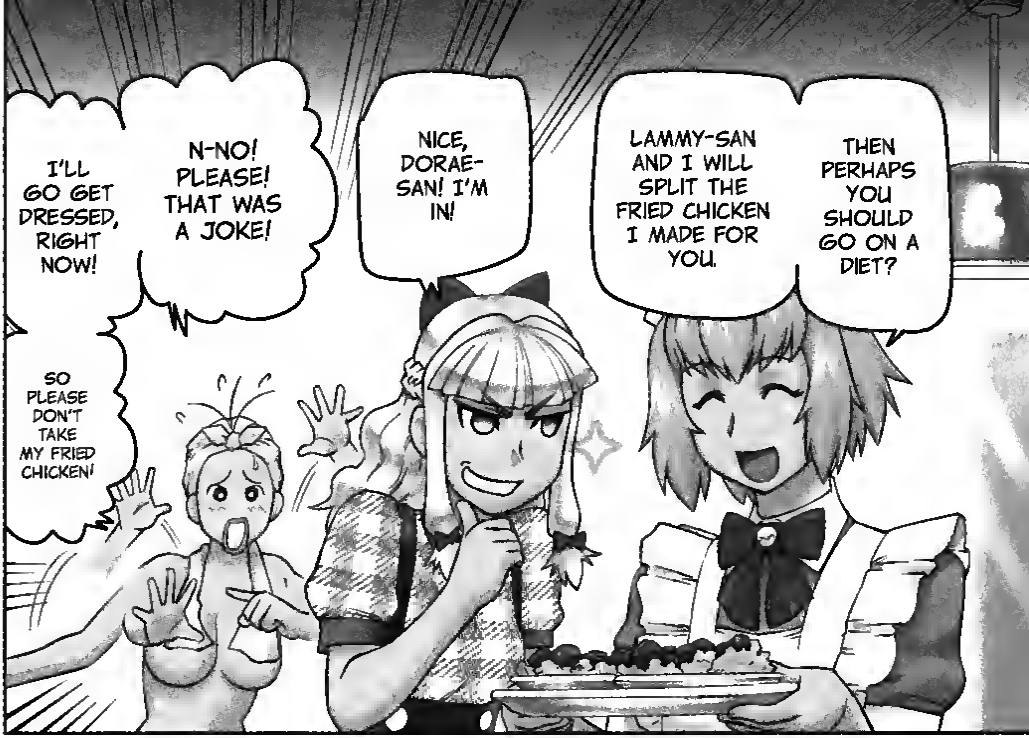
SINCE WE WERE FORCING HIS BRAIN TO PROCESS INFORMATION FASTER...
IT CAUSED SOME OF HIS NERVES TO SHORT OUT AND MADE HIM FEEL VERY EXHAUSTED.
IT'S SIMILAR TO CARSICKNESS.
GAG

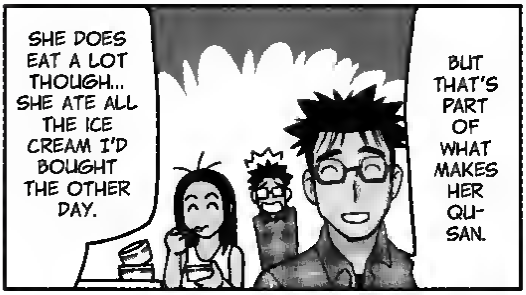
Fight 16: He Complimented Me!

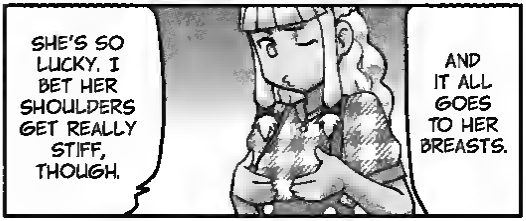
SNAP
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
Aaaahh...
This makes me glad to be alive!
QU-CHAN!
HEY!

OH COME ON!
DRINKING IT RIGHT AFTER YOU GET OUT IS HALF THE FUN.
YOU CAN HAVE YOUR POST-BATH BEER *AFTER* YOU PUT YOUR CLOTHES ON!
WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS!
BROTHER, YOU TURN THE OTHER WAY!


WHY YOU-!
GRRRRR!
...MAYBE LOSING A LITTLE WOULD BE A GOOD THING?
WELL, IN MY CASE...
AND IT'S NOT LIKE I LOSE ANY-THING IF HE SEES ME.
BOUNCE BOUNCE
ぼよよ～ん
Uh-oh!
YOU WANTED TO LOSE A LITTLE?
DID YOU SAY...

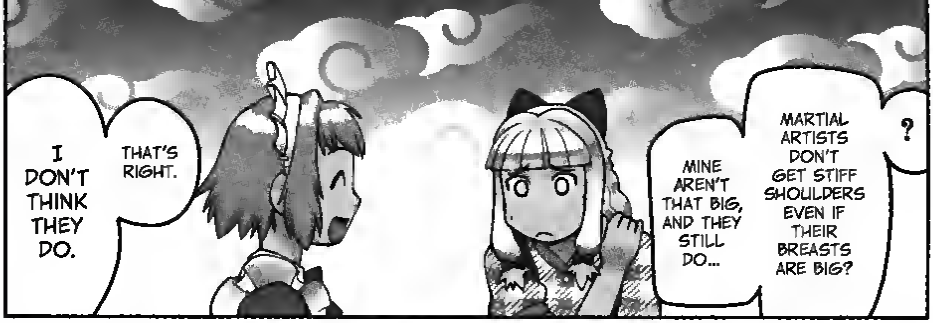

I'LL GO GET DRESSED, RIGHT NOW!
N-NO! PLEASE! THAT WAS A JOKE!
NICE, DORAE-SAN! I'M IN!
LAMMY-SAN AND I WILL SPLIT THE FRIED CHICKEN I MADE FOR YOU.
THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULD GO ON A DIET?
SO PLEASE DON'T TAKE MY FRIED CHICKEN!

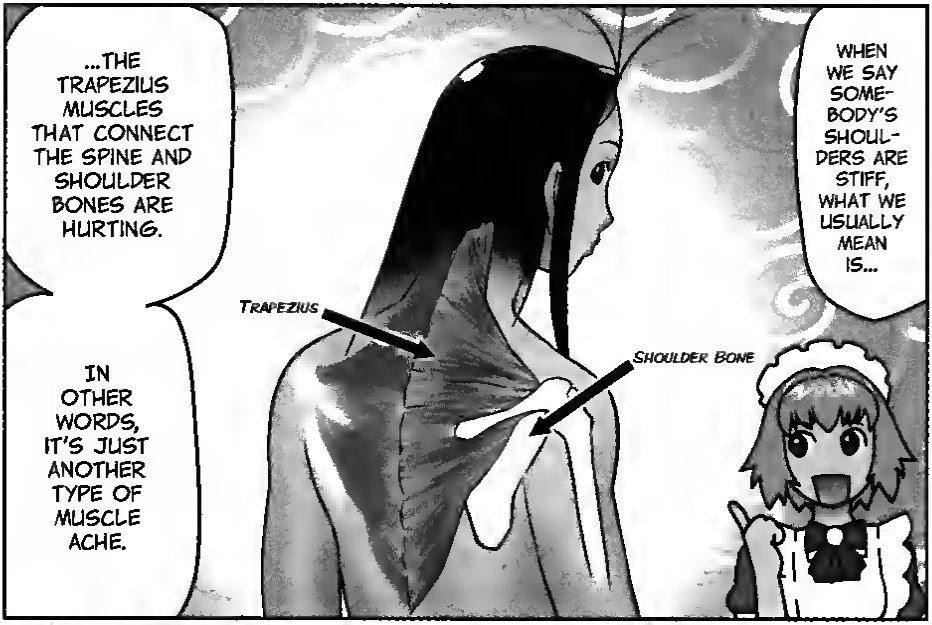

SHE DOES EAT A LOT THOUGH... SHE ATE ALL THE ICE CREAM I'D BOUGHT THE OTHER DAY.
BUT THAT'S PART OF WHAT MAKES HER QU-SAN.


SHE'S SO LUCKY. I BET HER SHOULDERS GET REALLY STIFF, THOUGH.
AND IT ALL GOES TO HER BREASTS.

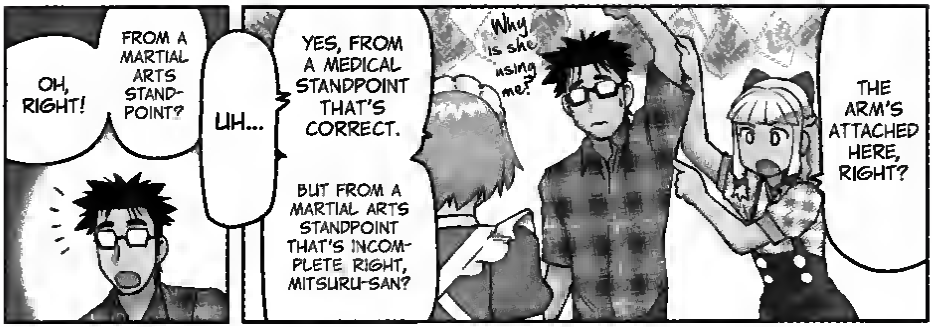
SHE'S A MARTIAL ARTIST.
NO, I DOUBT IT.

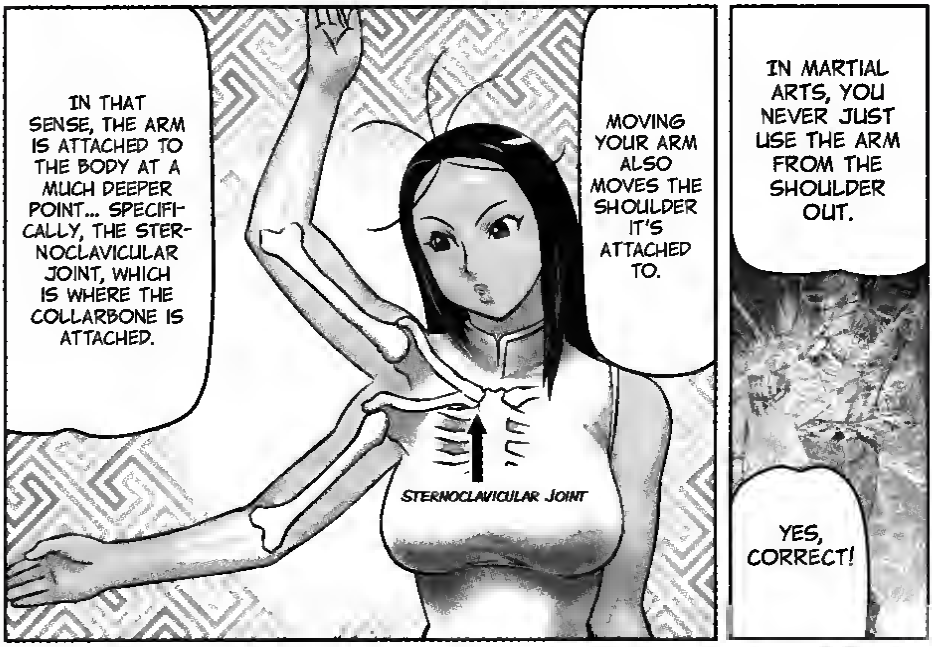
SHE SURE LIKES TO EAT, THOUGH.
JEEZ, I WOULD HOPE AN ADULT WOULD BE A LITTLE MORE THOUGHTFUL AND CON-SIDERATE

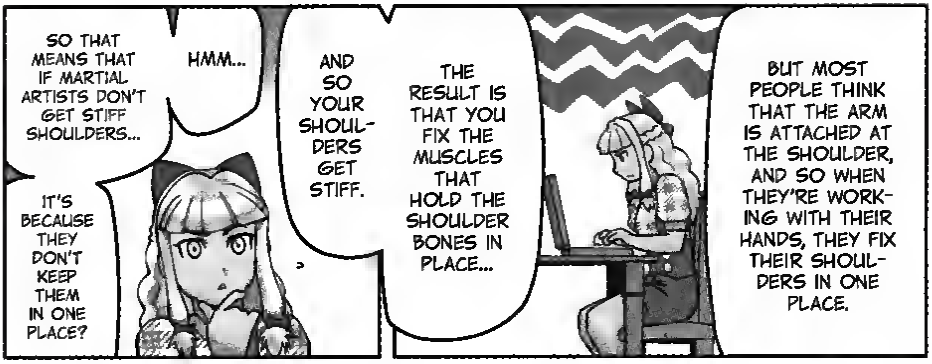


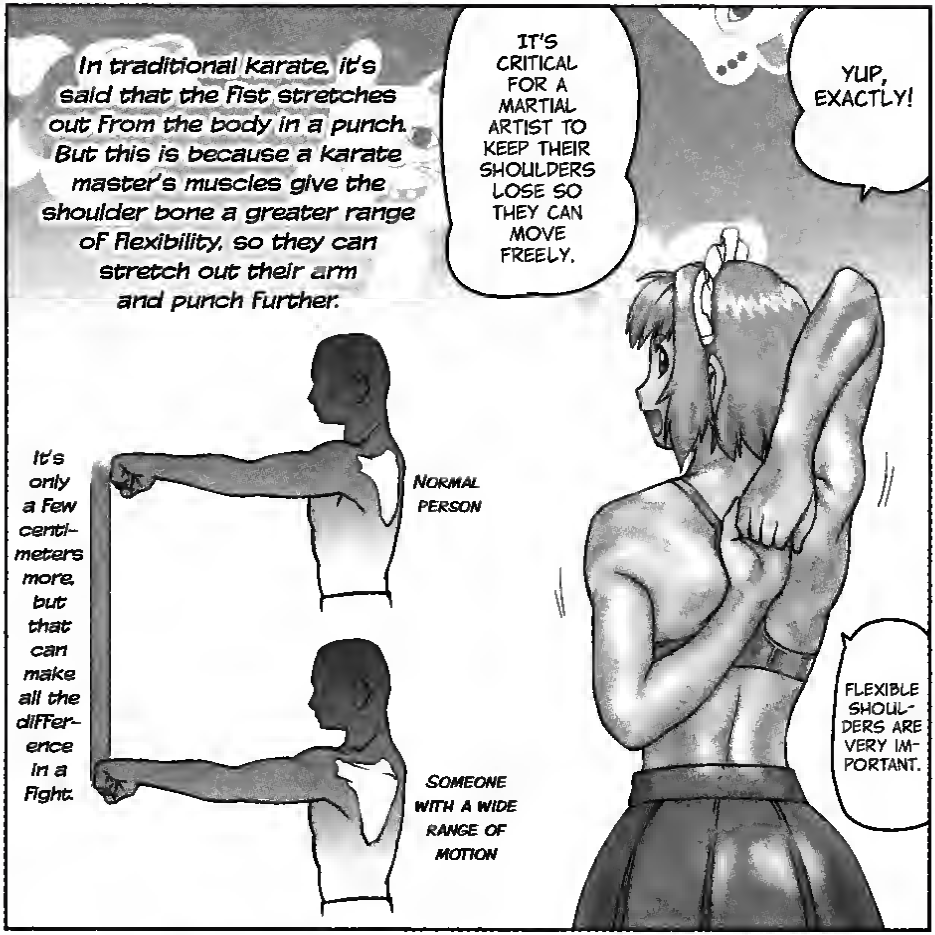


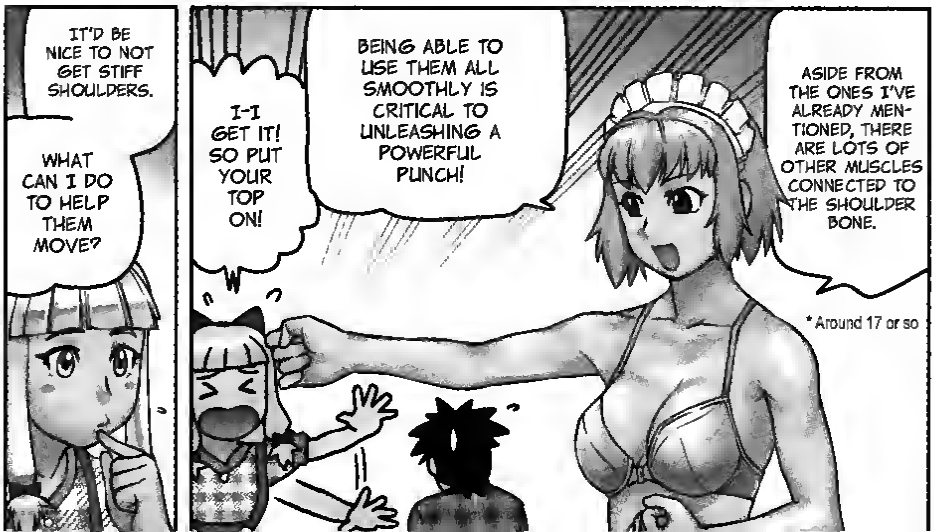
* Pain in the levator scapulae muscles that connect the neck to the shoulder bone can also cause stiff shoulders


OH, RIGHT!
FROM A MARTIAL ARTS STAND-POINT?
UH...
YES, FROM A MEDICAL STANDPOINT THAT'S CORRECT.
BUT FROM A MARTIAL ARTS STANDPOINT THAT'S INCOM-PLETE RIGHT, MITSURU-SAN?
Why is she using me?
THE ARM'S ATTACHED HERE, RIGHT?

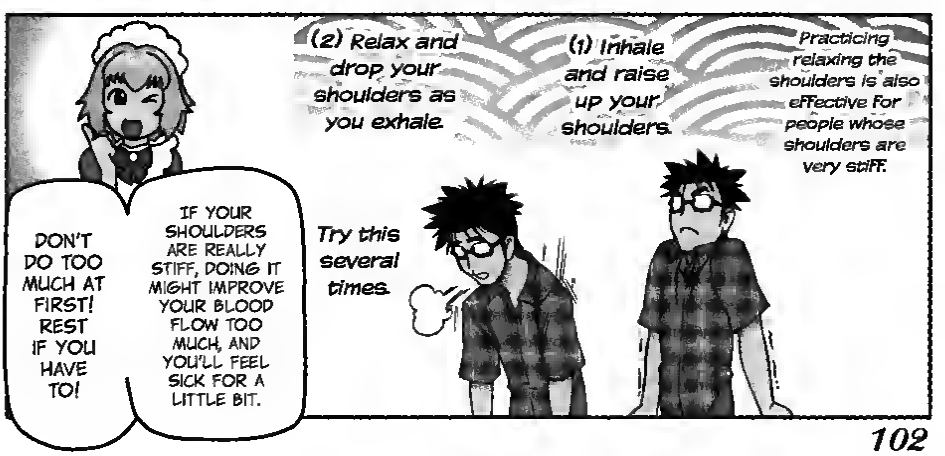

IN THAT SENSE, THE ARM IS ATTACHED TO THE BODY AT A MUCH DEEPER POINT... SPECIFI-CALLY, THE STER-NOCLAVICULAR JOINT, WHICH IS WHERE THE COLLARBONE IS ATTACHED.
STERNOCLAVICULAR JOINT
MOVING YOUR ARM ALSO MOVES THE SHOULDER IT'S ATTACHED TO.
IN MARTIAL ARTS, YOU NEVER JUST USE THE ARM FROM THE SHOULDER OUT.
YES, CORRECT!

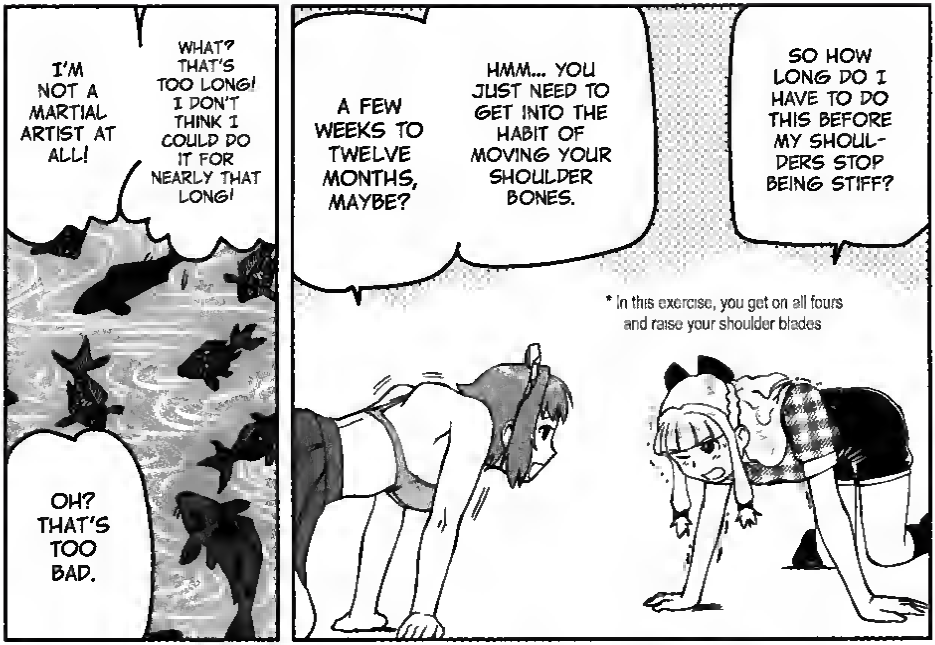

SO THAT MEANS THAT IF MARTIAL ARTISTS DON'T GET STIFF SHOULDERS...
IT'S BECAUSE THEY DON'T KEEP THEM IN ONE PLACE?
HMM...
AND SO YOUR SHOUL-DERS GET STIFF.
THE RESULT IS THAT YOU FIX THE MUSCLES THAT HOLD THE SHOULDER BONES IN PLACE...
BUT MOST PEOPLE THINK THAT THE ARM IS ATTACHED AT THE SHOULDER, AND SO WHEN THEY'RE WORK-ING WITH THEIR HANDS, THEY FIX THEIR SHOUL-DERS IN ONE PLACE.

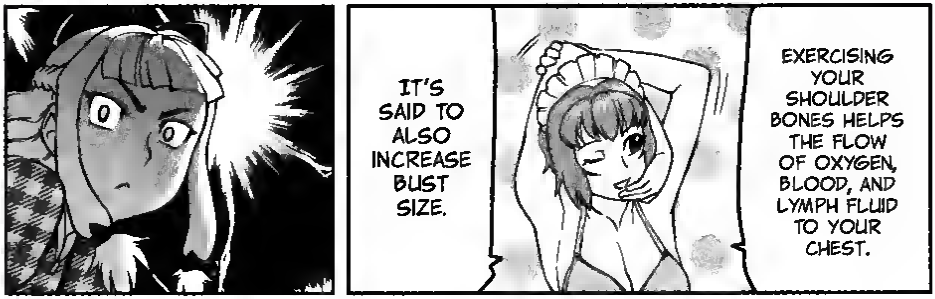

In traditional karate, it's said that the fist stretches out from the body in a punch. But this is because a karate master's muscles give the shoulder bone a greater range of flexibility, so they can stretch out their arm and punch further.
IT'S CRITICAL FOR A MARTIAL ARTIST TO KEEP THEIR SHOULDERS LOSE SO THEY CAN MOVE FREELY.
YUP, EXACTLY!
It's only a few centi-meters more, but that can make all the differ-ence in a fight.
NORMAL PERSON
SOMEONE WITH A WIDE RANGE OF MOTION
FLEXIBLE SHOUL-DERS ARE VERY IM-PORTANT.

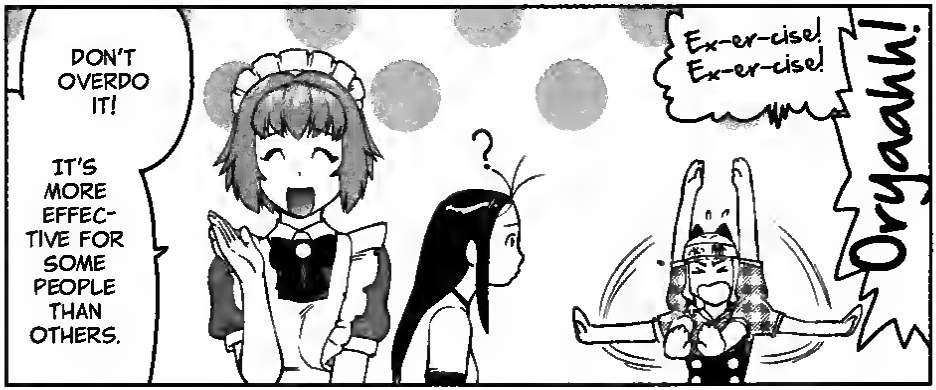

IT'D BE NICE TO NOT GET STIFF SHOULDERS.
WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP THEM MOVE?
I-I GET IT! SO PUT YOUR TOP ON!
BEING ABLE TO USE THEM ALL SMOOTHLY IS CRITICAL TO UNLEASHING A POWERFUL PUNCH!
ASIDE FROM THE ONES I'VE ALREADY MEN-TIONED, THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER MUSCLES CONNECTED TO THE SHOULDER BONE.
* Around 17 or so

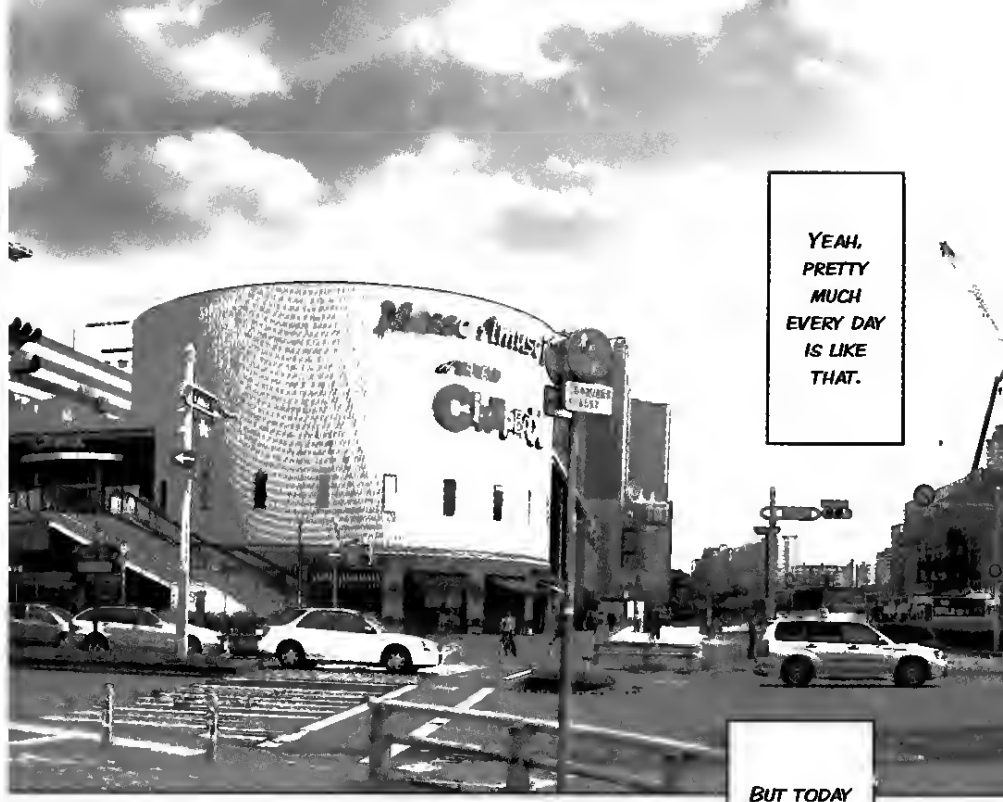
Try moving your arm from the shoulder joint, too, like somebody was pulling you by the fingers.
The simplest and surest way is to move your arm in big circles. Just try to move your arm as if it's attached from within the torso, not the shoulder.
IT'S EASY. THEY'RE MADE TO MOVE.
Visualize your arm behind attached here.
PALM DOWN
PALM UP
It also makes a big difference to the position of you shoulder bone whether your palm is facing up or down. Putting your palm either way when you do it makes it more effective.


(2) Relax and drop your shoulders as you exhale.
(1) Inhale and raise up your shoulders.
Practicing relaxing the shoulders is also effective for people whose shoulders are very stiff.
Try this several times.
DON'T DO TOO MUCH AT FIRST! REST IF YOU HAVE TO!
IF YOUR SHOULDERS ARE REALLY STIFF, DOING IT MIGHT IMPROVE YOUR BLOOD FLOW TOO MUCH, AND YOU'LL FEEL SICK FOR A LITTLE BIT.

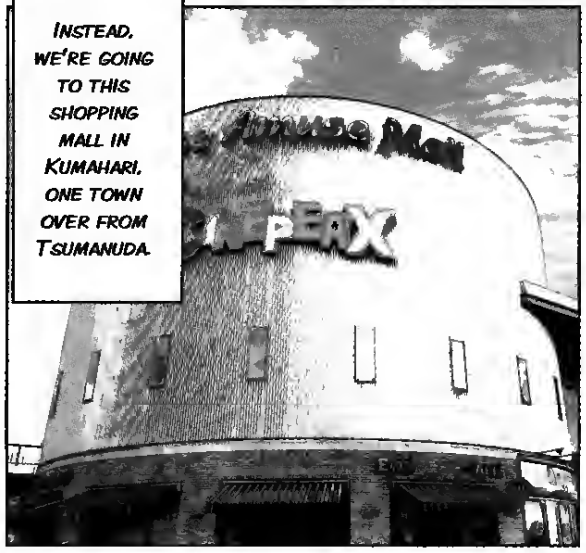

I'M NOT A MARTIAL ARTIST AT ALL!
WHAT? THAT'S TOO LONG! I DON'T THINK I COULD DO IT FOR NEARLY THAT LONG!
OH? THAT'S TOO BAD.
A FEW WEEKS TO TWELVE MONTHS, MAYBE?
HMM... YOU JUST NEED TO GET INTO THE HABIT OF MOVING YOUR SHOULDER BONES.
SO HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO DO THIS BEFORE MY SHOULDERS STOP BEING STIFF?
* In this exercise, you get on all fours and raise your shoulder blades


IT'S SAID TO ALSO INCREASE BUST SIZE.
EXERCISING YOUR SHOULDER BONES HELPS THE FLOW OF OXYGEN, BLOOD, AND LYMPH FLUID TO YOUR CHEST.


DON'T OVERDO IT!
IT'S MORE EFFECTIVE FOR SOME PEOPLE THAN OTHERS.
Ex-er-cise! Ex-er-cise!
Oryaahh!


YEAH, PRETTY MUCH EVERY DAY IS LIKE THAT.

STEP

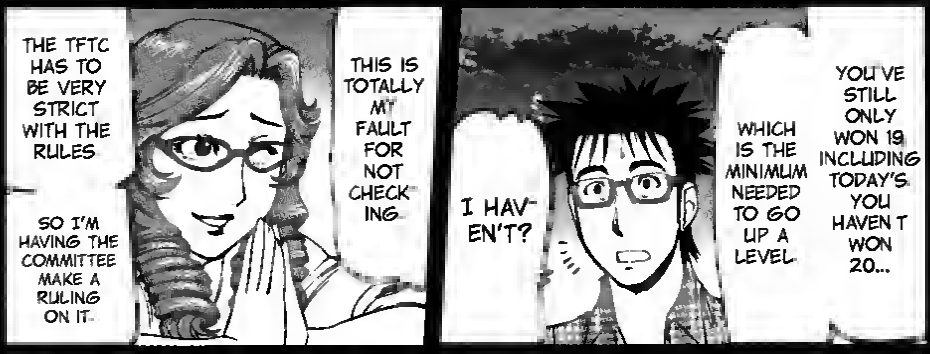

INSTEAD, WE'RE GOING TO THIS SHOPPING MALL IN KUMAHARI, ONE TOWN OVER FROM TSUMANUDA.

BUT TODAY WE'RE FORGETTING ABOUT FIGHTING.

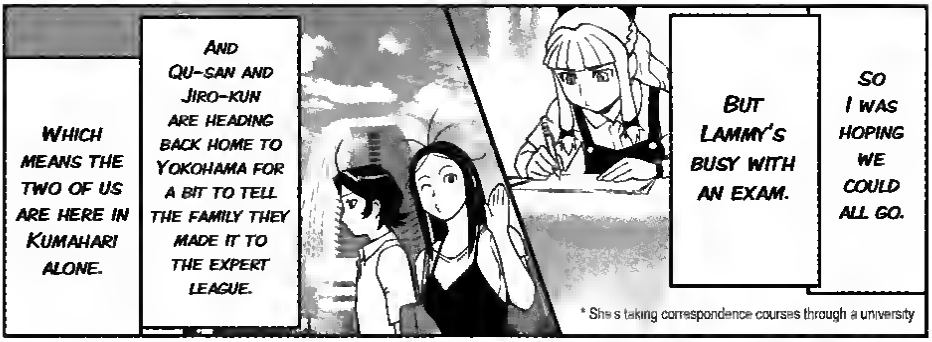
AAH...
STRETCH
WASN'T THAT AMAZING, MITSURU-SAN?!
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO SUCH A BIG MOVIE THEATRE. I THINK I LET MY SHOULDERS TENSE UP.
コキコキ
CRACK
THERE WASN'T A BIG MOVIE THEATRE NEAR MY HOUSE.
ME, TOO!
OH?
SO IT WASN'T JUST ME!
AS FOR WHY THE BOTH OF US...
I GOT TIRED FROM SITTING STILL.
LET'S GO TAKE A WALK, MITSURU-SAN.
...ARE RELAXING AT A MOVIE THEATRE...
CLAP

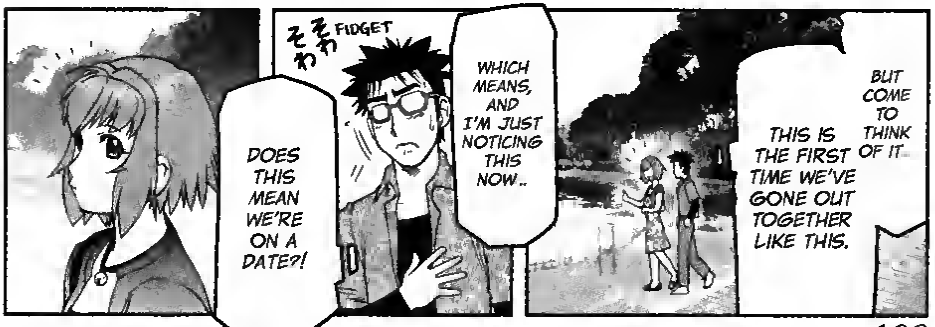
THIS WAS TOTALLY MY MIS-TAKE!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
WE PASSED THE TEST BUT WE CAN'T GO TO THE EXPERT LEAGUE?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YUUKO-SAN?

THE PROBLEM S MITSURU-KUN.
HE HAS WON 25 BOUTS IN THE ROOKIE RING AND WON TODAY'S MATCH THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH HIM AT ALL.
NO, THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH JIRO KUN


THE TFTC HAS TO BE VERY STRICT WITH THE RULES
SO I'M HAVING THE COMMITTEE MAKE A RULING ON IT.
THIS IS TOTALLY MY FAULT FOR NOT CHECK-ING.
I HAV-EN'T?
WHICH IS THE MINIMUM NEEDED TO GO UP A LEVEL.
YOU'VE STILL ONLY WON 19 INCLUDING TODAY'S. YOU HAVEN T WON 20...

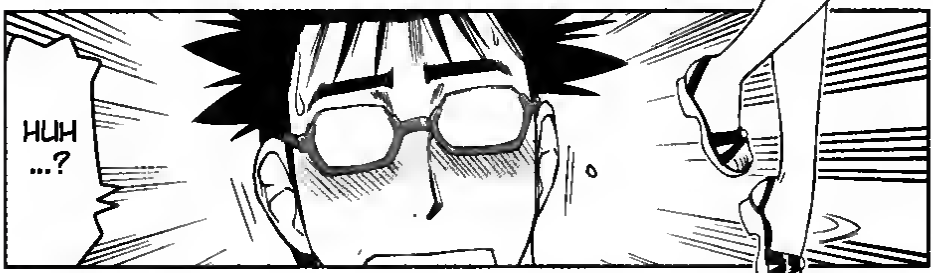
MOM, YOU'RE TOO CLOSE!
WHY DON'T YOU ENJOY YOURSELF WHILE YOU WAIT?
AS AN APOLOGY, HERE ARE SOME FREE MOVIE TICKETS TO A CINEMA MY COMPANY RUNS AND A DISCOUNT COUPON AT A RESTAURANT.
THEY'LL KNOW IN TWO OR THREE DAYS WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO. CAN YOU NOT DO ANY FIGHTS UNTIL THEN?
O-OKAY...

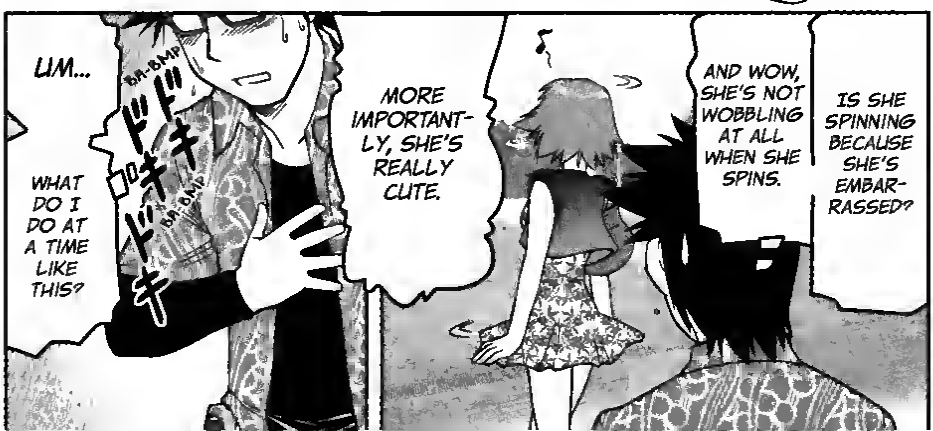

WHICH MEANS THE TWO OF US ARE HERE IN KUMAHARI ALONE.
AND QU-SAN AND JIRO-KUN ARE HEADING BACK HOME TO YOKOHAMA FOR A BIT TO TELL THE FAMILY THEY MADE IT TO THE EXPERT LEAGUE.
BUT LAMMY'S BUSY WITH AN EXAM.
SO I WAS HOPING WE COULD ALL GO.
* She s taking correspondence courses through a university


DOES THIS MEAN WE'RE ON A DATE?!
そわそわ FIDGET
WHICH MEANS, AND I'M JUST NOTICING THIS NOW..
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE GONE OUT TOGETHER LIKE THIS.
BUT COME TO THINK OF IT...

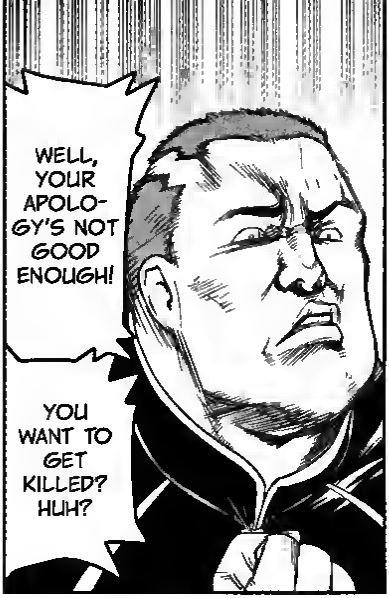
IS SOME-THING NOT RIGHT?
IS THERE SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT ME?
NO! N-NOT AT ALL!
REAL-LY?
I DON'T WEAR CLOTHES LIKE THIS OFTEN, SO MAYBE I'VE GOT SOMETHING WRONG.
N-NO, NOT AT ALL!
IT LOOKS WONDER-FUL ON YOU.
HUH?
I-IT DOES?!
TURN
DID I SAY SOME-THING I SHOULDN'T HAVE?

HEE HEE HEE!
SPIN
HE COMPLI-MENTED ME!
SPIN

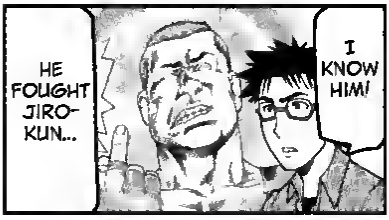

HUH ...?


UM...
BA-BUMP
ドキ
ドキ
BA-BUMP
WHAT DO I DO AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
MORE IMPORTANT-LY, SHE'S REALLY CUTE.
AND WOW, SHE'S NOT WOBBLING AT ALL WHEN SHE SPINS.
IS SHE SPINNING BECAUSE SHE'S EMBAR-RASSED?

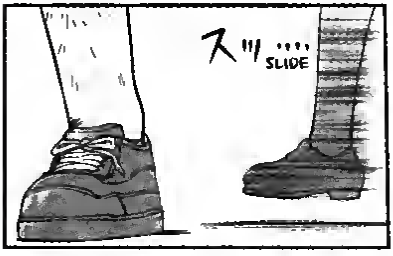
PLEASE STAY THERE AND WAIT, DORAE-SAN!
NO, I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!
U-UM...
I'LL GO GET SOME-THING TO DRINK!
ACTUAL-LY, I'VE GOT-
DASH
HUH ...
WHEW.
SHE JUST LOOKS SO DIFFERENT OUTSIDE OF HER MAID OUTFIT THAT LOOKING AT HER MADE MY HEART POUND!
BUT...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE BEEN WITH HER FOR A WHILE, AND I STILL KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HER.
SHE'S SO MYSTERI-OUS.
HEY!
YOU THINK YOU CAN MESS WITH ME, KID?
SKID


WELL, YOUR APOLO-GY'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!
YOU WANT TO GET KILLED? HUH?

B-BUT I'M APOLO-GIZING!
YOU THINK YOU CAN TALK LIKE THAT WHEN YOU SLAM INTO SOME-BODY?
S-IN S-IN
カラ カラ…

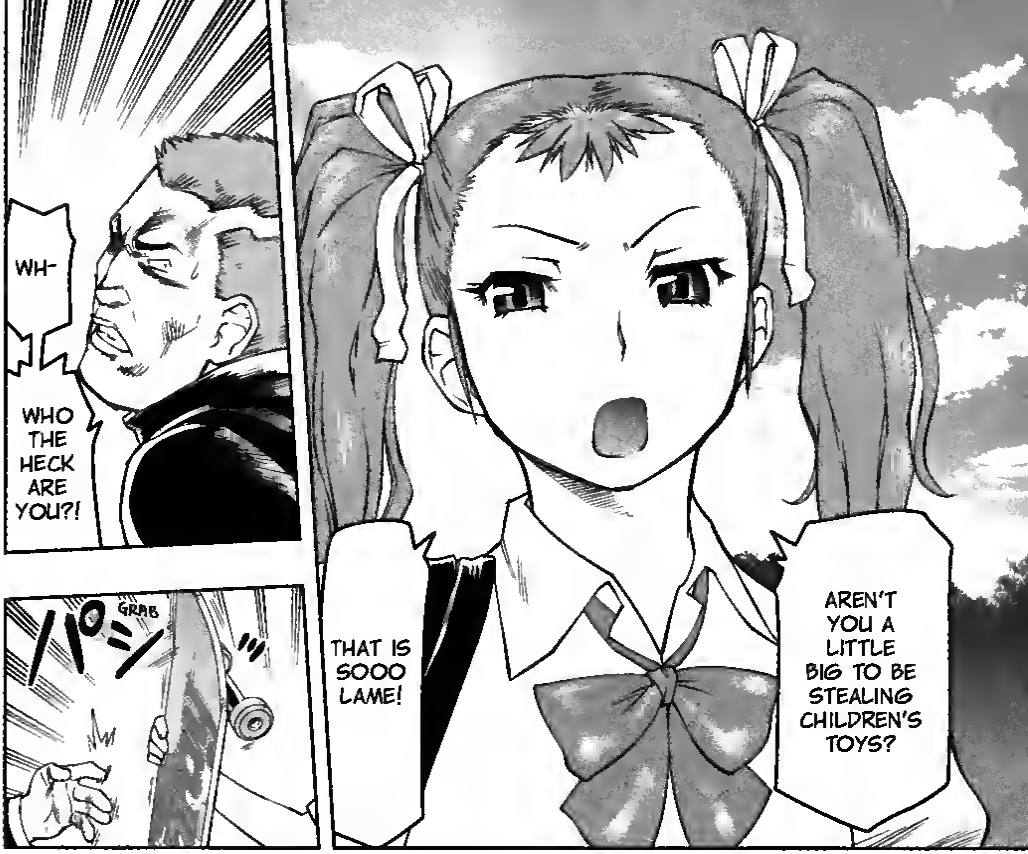

HE FOUGHT JIRO-KUN..
I KNOW HIM!

H-HEY, I JUST BOUGHT THAT!
I'M TAKING THIS AS A FINE. I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH THAT, SO BE GRATEFUL.
STUPID KID ON HIS STUPID BOARD.

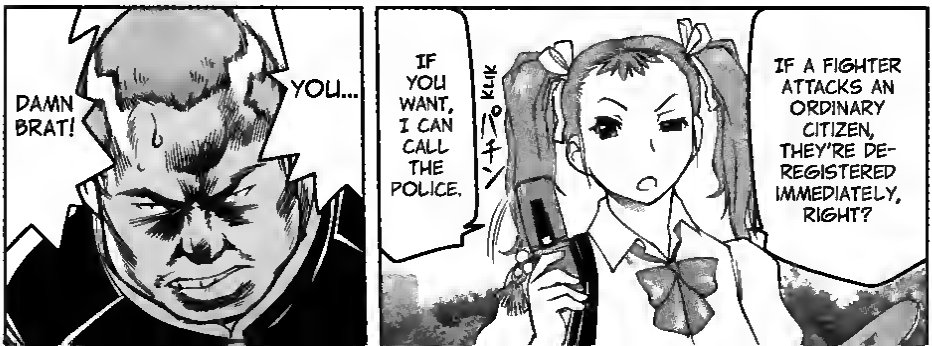

スッ…
SLIDE

WHAT? YOU WANT TO GET KILLED ?!
GRR
……!

KICK
トン
SLAM
ガ!!
?!


WH-
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
GRAB
THAT IS SOOO LAME!
AREN'T YOU A LITTLE BIG TO BE STEALING CHILDREN'S TOYS?

I'VE SEEN YOU STREET FIGHTING IN TSUMANUDA.
!!
SWING
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO I AM.


DAMN BRAT!
YOU...
IF YOU WANT, I CAN CALL THE POLICE.
KLIK
IF A FIGHTER ATTACKS AN ORDINARY CITIZEN, THEY'RE DE-REGISTERED IMMEDIATELY, RIGHT?

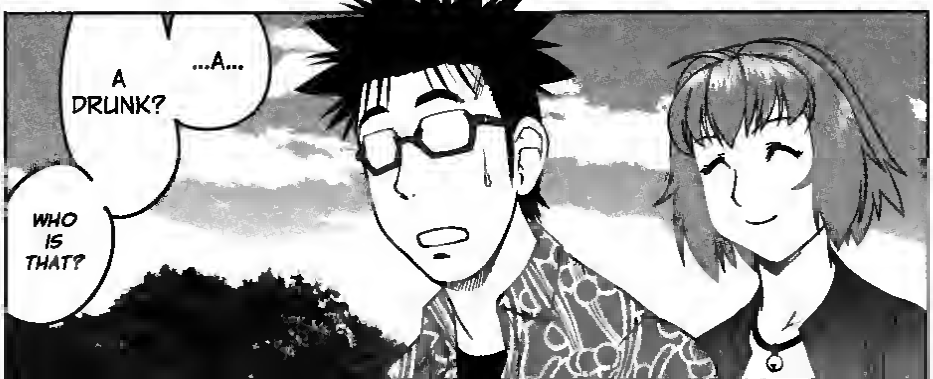
FWSH
GIVE ME THAT PHONE!
DON'T THINK YOU CAN MESS WITH AN ADULT!
SLAM
SMN
Argh!

OWW!
TWIST
SNAP
TAKE THIS AND GO HOME.
HERE.
OH, UH... THANKS.
AW!
Gaaaah...
THAT LOOKS LIKE IT HURT...
WOW...
YOU BITCH!
WH-WHY...

NOW I'M MAD...
I'LL KILL YOU!
HMPH.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY!
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴ…
……
STEP
TAP
ポン
WAIT, MITSURU-SAN.
YUUKO-SAN ASKED YOU NOT TO FIGHT. AND THIS ISN'T TSUMANUDA.
DORAE-SAN!
BUT WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER.
DON'T WORRY.
LET'S LEAVE IT TO THEM!
THEM...?
SLIDE

LET GO OF ME!
WHO IS THIS GUY?
.....
DON'T DO THAT!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? A FIGHT?
?!
GRAB
HEY, BROTHER!

NOTHING GOOD COMES OF FIGHTING!
JUST GO HAVE A DRINK AND FORGET ALL ABOUT IT.


...A... A DRUNK?
WHO IS THAT?

Doctor Shin's Simple Martial Arts BONUS Corner 2

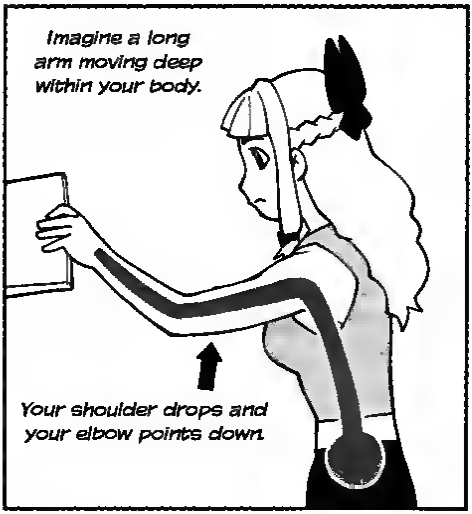
EVERY CASE OF STIFF SHOULDERS IS DIFFERENT, BUT MOST OF THEM ARE DUE TO TENSE MUSCLES.

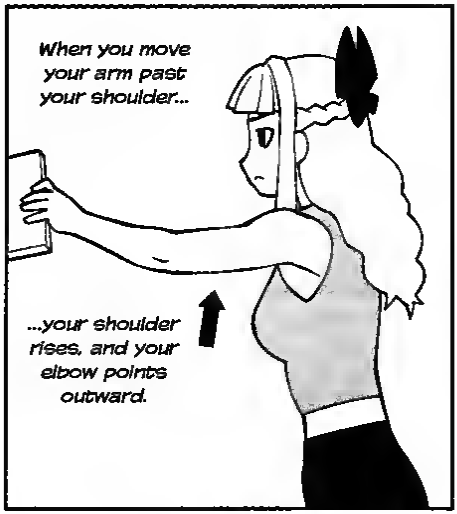
IN JAPANESE "TENSE SHOULDERS" IS A BAD THING WHILE "RELAXED SHOULDERS" IS A GOOD THING, RIGHT?

TO THE JAPANESE, THE "PROPER MOVEMENT" OF A MASTER WILL ALWAYS HAVE RELAXED SHOULDERS.

SO IF YOU CAN LEARN TO HAVE "PROPER MOVEMENT," YOU'LL GET BETTER AT WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING AND YOUR SHOULDERS WON'T BE STIFF ANY-MORE!

* "Shoulders" in this case usually means the upper trapezius





IF YOU CAN GET A FEEL FOR IT, YOU'LL BE STRONGER AND HAVE SMOOTHER MOVEMENTS WHEN YOU WORK WITH YOUR HANDS.

Try to imagine that your arm is attached deep within your torso. Your shoulder will relax on its own, and your whole upper body will move smoother.

If you just focus on your fingers, your trapezius will tense, and you'll just move your arm past the shoulder.

* When you work with your hands

Proper movement to the Japanese starts with the hips and stomach.

Character Profile 5

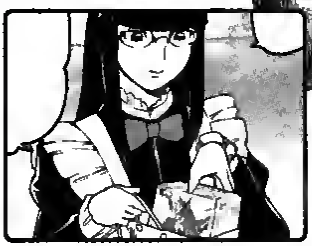
Jiro Wong

He is a young martial arts genius who has been taught tai chi chuan by his father for as long as he can remember. He has an exceptionally calm personality, and even his family has never seen him very upset. He is also rather quiet.

Real name: Jiro Ou
Age: 18
Height: 5' 7" Weight: 130 pounds

Jiro is very serious and passionate about his tai chi chuan, and he's mostly uninterested in anything else. He has never picked out his own clothes to buy.

Quincy is eight years older than Jiro. While he relies on her, he also has to do whatever she says. She's like a mother to him.



He likes models and books. He builds robot models and enjoys reading science-fiction and fantasy.

He has always worn hand-me-downs from his sister, Quincy, so he's used to wearing women's clothes. He says he simply doesn't mind it, but he doesn't enjoy it, either.

Fight 17: Fighters Are Like Kids

THE STORY SO FAR

My brother and Dorae-san were taking a break in Kumahari, the city next to Tsumanuda, when they went to a park and saw another street fighter arguing with a very strong-willed high school girl.

Just as my brother was about to intervene, a mysterious drunk appeared...?

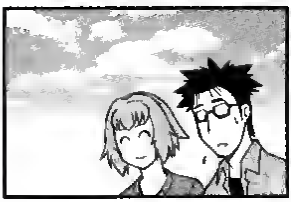
WH-
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
COME ON, HAVE A DRINK!
SWIPE
SWIPE
CLENCH
GET OFF ME, DAMN IT!
GRAB
WH-
WHY YOU...!
HOP
?!
WAS THAT DODGE COINCI-DENCE?

HEY THERE!
H...
THUD
TRIP
GRAB
STRETCH
CRACK
UH!
OWWW!
#MPH!

ISN'T THAT FOR THE BEST?
IT'S NOT! GET OFF ME, DAMN IT!
HUH? SHE GOT AWAY?
OW OW OW!
GET BACK HERE, YOU STUPID KID!
STRETCH
DASH
IT IS FOR THE BEST.
NO!
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED?
D-DON'T ASK ME...
A WHILE AGO, I ACCIDENTLY PICKED A FIGHT WITH A SECTION CHIEF WHO PISSED ME OFF.
NOTHING GOOD COMES OF FIGHTING
I GOT LAID OFF! FIRED!
I WAS LIVING IN A COMPANY DORM, SO I GOT CHASED OUT OF MY HOME, TOO.
MY WIFE AND KID LEFT ME.
PICKING A FIGHT RUINED MY LIFE!
UWAAAH
あぁ

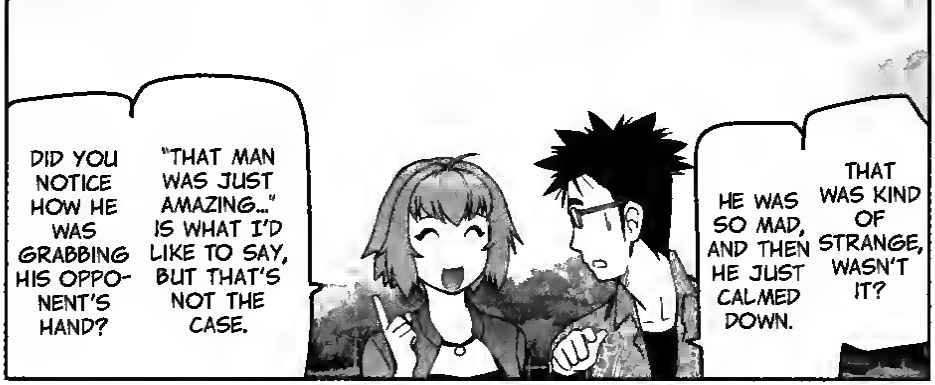
IF I GET DE-REGISTERED, I WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE IN TSUMANUDA ANYMORE!
IF A FIGHTER ATTACKS AN ORDINARY CITIZEN, THEY'RE DE-REGISTERED IMMEDIATELY, RIGHT?
UH...

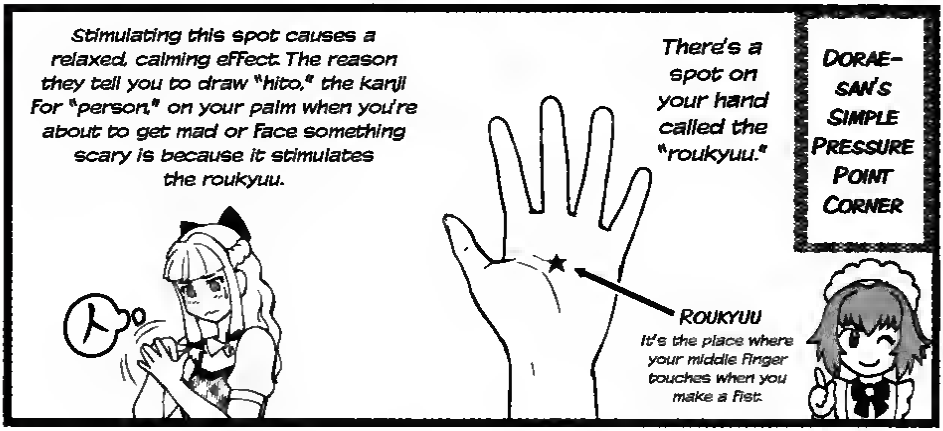
THEN YOU WON'T FIGHT ANY-MORE?
I WON'T.
THIS WHOLE THING IS JUST STUPID.

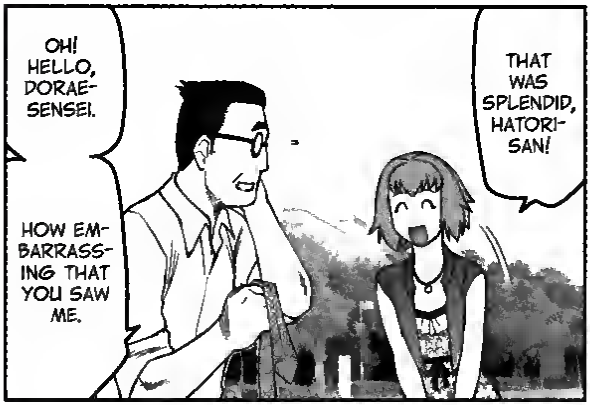


SO STOP CRYING. IT'S EM-BARRASS-ING!
F-FINE, I GET IT!
COME BACK TO ME, YUMIKO!
EVEN THOUGH SHE'D TOLD ME TO STOP FIGHTING, I DIDN'T LISTEN TO HER!
SOB SOB
おーいおいおい

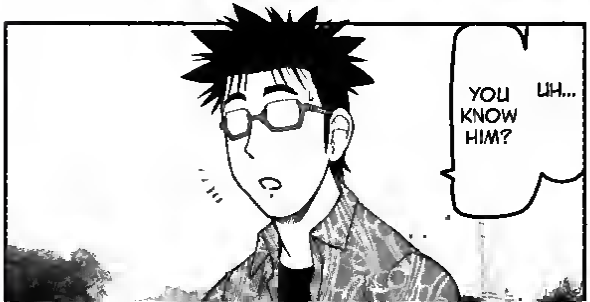
AND STOP DRINKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY AND FIND A JOB!
SHUT UP!
WORK HARD, YOUNG MAN!


THAT WAS KIND OF STRANGE, WASN'T IT?
HE WAS SO MAD, AND THEN HE JUST CALMED DOWN.
"THAT MAN WAS JUST AMAZING..." IS WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE.
DID YOU NOTICE HOW HE WAS GRABBING HIS OPPONENT'S HAND?

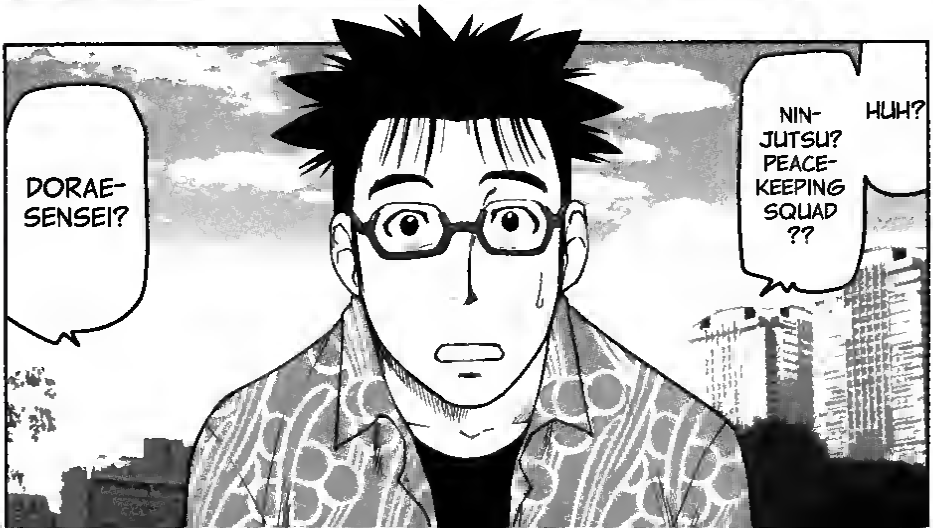

DORAE-SAN'S SIMPLE PRESSURE POINT CORNER
There's a spot on your hand called the "roukyuu."
Stimulating this spot causes a relaxed, calming effect. The reason they tell you to draw "hito," the kanji for "person," on your palm when you're about to get mad or face something scary is because it stimulates the roukyuu.
ROUKYUU
It's the place where your middle finger touches when you make a fist.


THAT WAS SPLENDID, HATORI-SAN!
OH! HELLO, DORAE-SENSEI.
HOW EMBARRASSING THAT YOU SAW ME.

STEP
STEP


UH...
YOU KNOW HIM?

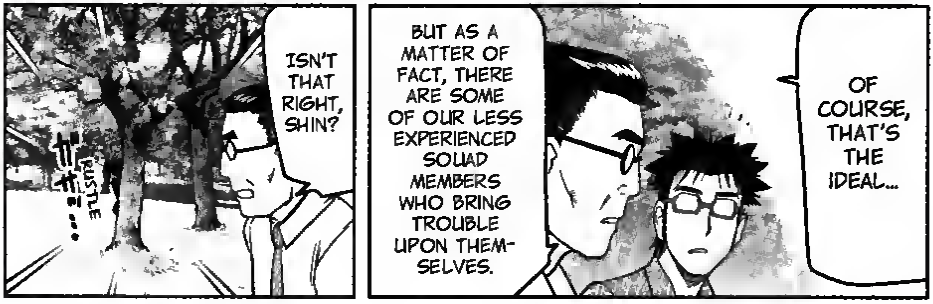
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
THIS IS KENZOU HATORI-SAN.
HE'S THE HEAD MASTER OF JITSUBOU STYLE TACTICAL NINJUTSU, AND THE HEAD OF THE TSUMANUDA PEACEKEEPING SQUAD.
HELLO.
YOU'RE WITH DORAE-SENSEI, THEN?
SWP

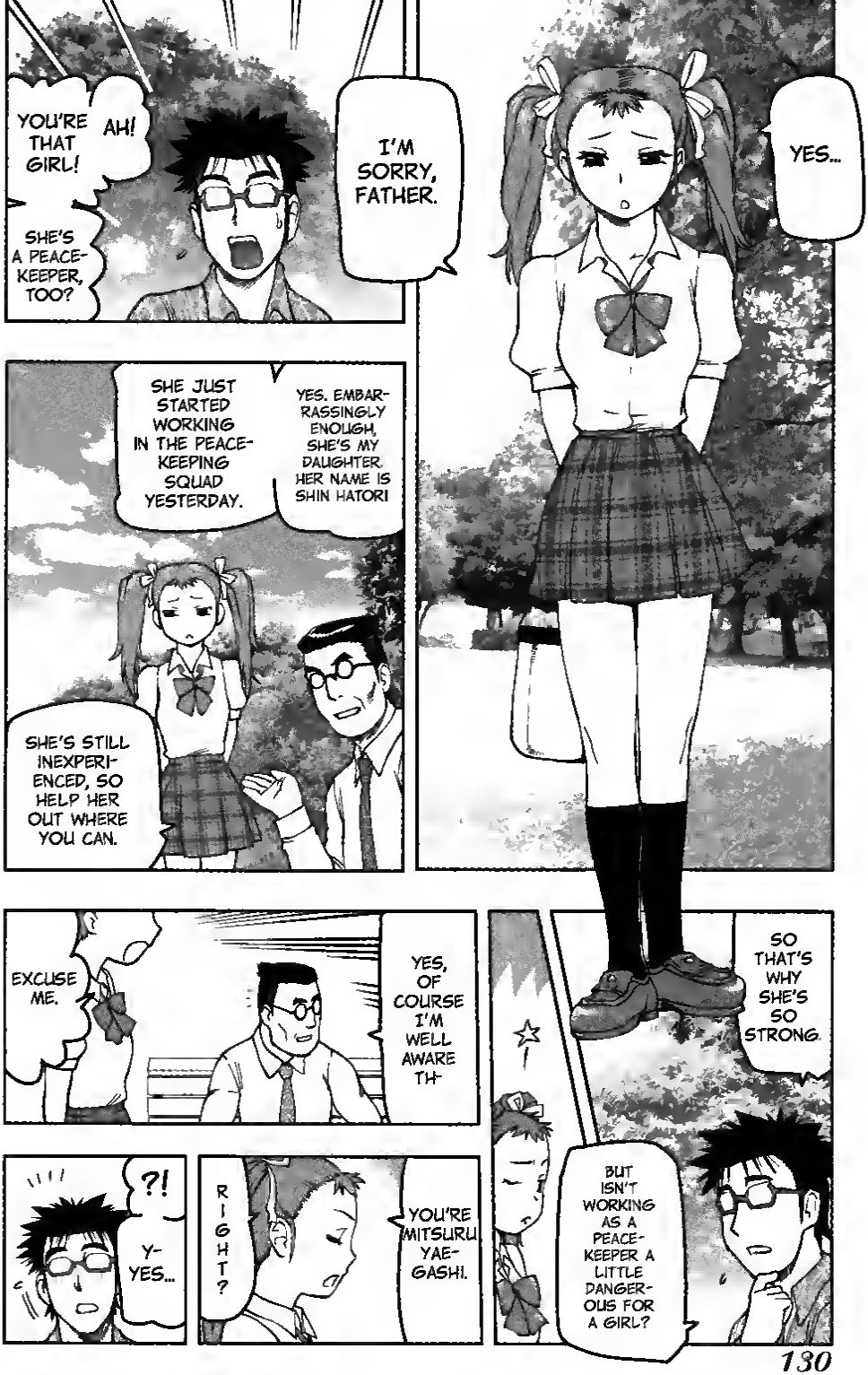

HUH?
NIN-JUTSU? PEACE-KEEPING SQUAD ??
DORAE-SENSEI?

MY, HOW EMBARRASSING.
YOU WERE JUST PRETENDING TO BE DRUNK?! I WAS TOTALLY FOOLED!
HUH...? THIS IS OOLONG TEA, NOT ALCOHOL?
IS THAT THE JOB OF THE PEACEKEEPING SQUAD?
LECTURE?
...THAN A MIDDLE-AGED GENTLEMAN'S LECTURE.
I THOUGHT HE'D BE MORE LIKELY TO LISTEN TO A COMPLAINING DRUNK...
TSUMANUDA'S STATUS AS A "FIGHT TOWN" MEANS IT'S GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF EASILY RILED YOUNG MEN.
TO AVOID THE PROBLEMS THAT CAUSES, HATORI-SAN, A MASTER OF TRADITIONAL NIN-JUTSU, WAS BROUGHT IN TO FORM A PEACE-KEEPING SQUAD.
THE WORK OF THE PEACE-KEEPING SQUAD IS JUST WHAT THE NAME SUGGESTS— TO KEEP THE PEACE IN TSUMANUDA AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS.

PEOPLE LIKE HIM ARE LIKELY TO SNAP OVER TRIVIAL THINGS.
SO WE WERE KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM BEFORE SOMETHING HAPPENED... TO STOP TROUBLE BEFORE IT STARTED.
THAT FIGHTER'S BEEN LOSING LATELY, AND THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN GOING WELL IN GENERAL FOR HIM.
YES, I SUPPOSE.
THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE TODAY, RIGHT, HATORI-SAN?
NIN-JUTSU SPECIALIZES NOT JUST IN FIGHTING BUT ALSO IN GATHERING AND ANALYZING INFORMATION.
SO...
IN OTHER WORDS...

OH MY, HOW EMBARRASSING.
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.
ISN'T THAT SUPPOSED TO BE THE HIGHEST FORM OF MARTIAL ARTS? NIN-JUTSU IS AMAZING, ISN'T IT, DORAE-SAN?
YOU MEAN "WIN BEFORE THE FIGHT EVEN BEGINS."


ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SHIN?
BUT AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE ARE SOME OF OUR LESS EXPERIENCED SQUAD MEMBERS WHO BRING TROUBLE UPON THEMSELVES.
OF COURSE, THAT'S THE IDEAL...

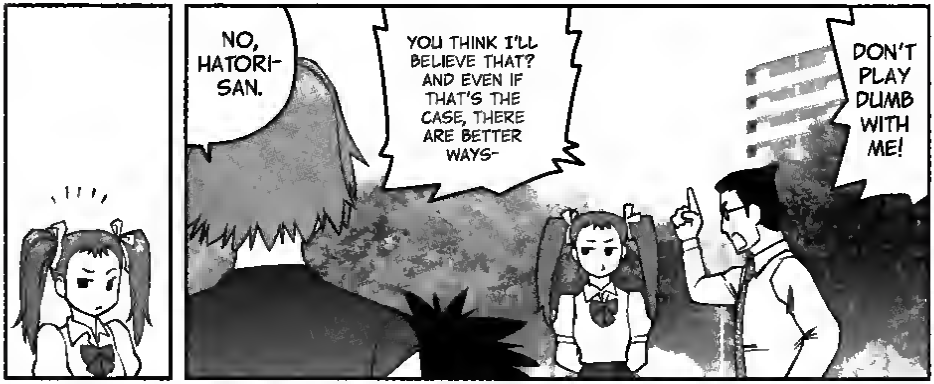

AH!
YOU'RE THAT GIRL!
SHE'S A PEACE-KEEPER, TOO?
I'M SORRY, FATHER.
YES...
SHE JUST STARTED WORKING IN THE PEACE-KEEPING SQUAD YESTERDAY.
YES. EMBARRASSINGLY ENOUGH, SHE'S MY DAUGHTER. HER NAME IS SHIN HATORI
SHE'S STILL INEXPERIENCED, SO HELP HER OUT WHERE YOU CAN.
EXCUSE ME.
YES, OF COURSE I'M WELL AWARE TH-
SO THAT'S WHY SHE'S SO STRONG.
BUT ISN'T WORKING AS A PEACE-KEEPER A LITTLE DANGEROUS FOR A GIRL?
?!
Y-YES...
RIGHT?
YOU'RE MITSURU YAEGASHI.

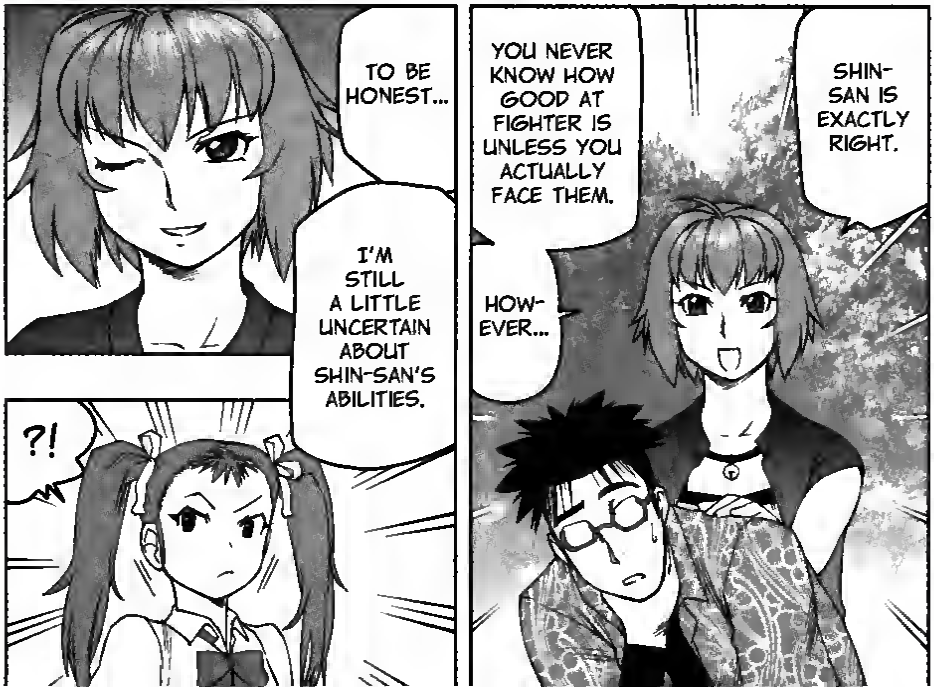
OH WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I SAW YOUR LAST FIGHT, AND IT WAS SOOO GREAT!
I'M A HUGE FAN!
ADORING
AND SO...
C#K
OH, UM...
THANKS.
CAN I TAKE A PICTURE? MAYBE TOGETHER?
OR MAYBE I COULD HAVE A HAND-SHAKE?
OH, SURE...
ぴょんこ ぴょんこ
#OP #OP
FWP
?!
NOT! ♡
TASUK

Gah!
YANK
SPIN
SLAM
SUP

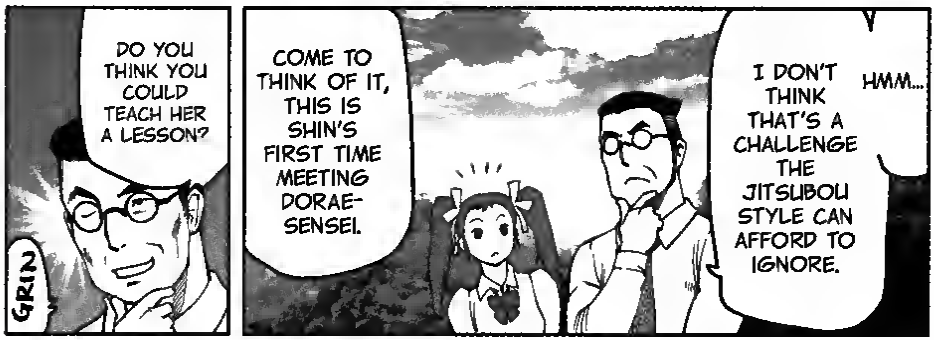
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! STOP IT, SHIN!
TO US NINJA, YOU FIGHTERS ARE LIKE KIDS!
GLARE
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME JUST BECAUSE I'M A GIRL!
NIN-JUTSU SPECIALIZES IN USING WEAPONS AND STRIKING THE ENEMY WHEN HE LEAST EXPECTS IT.

SH-SHOW ME...?
KOFF
SO I FIGURED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SHOW HIM THAN TRY TO CONVINCE HIM WITH WORDS.
YAEGASHI SEEMED TO DOUBT MY ABILITY...
SLAP
YES, FATHER.


NO, HATORI-SAN.
YOU THINK I'LL BELIEVE THAT? AND EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE, THERE ARE BETTER WAYS-
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME!

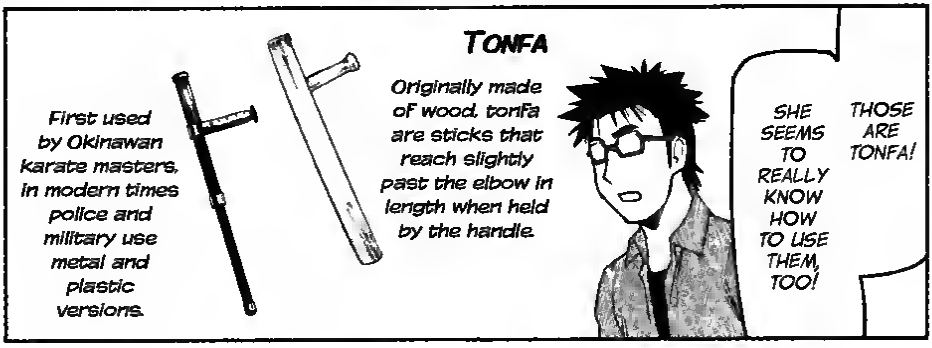

TO BE HONEST...
I'M STILL A LITTLE UNCERTAIN ABOUT SHIN-SAN'S ABILITIES.
?!
YOU NEVER KNOW HOW GOOD AT FIGHTER IS UNLESS YOU ACTUALLY FACE THEM.
HOW-EVER...
SHIN-SAN IS EXACTLY RIGHT.

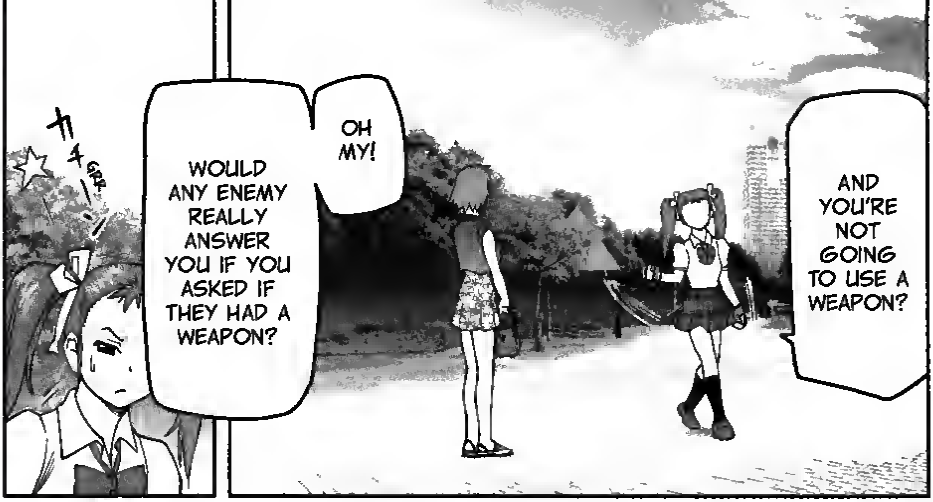
RUMBLE
HMPH!
UNTIL I WAS COMPLETELY CERTAIN SHE COULD FIGHT AN ENEMY HEAD ON.
BUT AS A MARTIAL ARTIST, I DON'T THINK I'D FEEL COMFORTABLE LETTING HER KEEP THE PEACE...
YOU THINK SO, HUH?
RUMBLE
ATTACKING AN ENEMY WHEN THEY LEAST EXPECT IT IS AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY.


DO YOU THINK YOU COULD TEACH HER A LESSON?
GRIN
COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS IS SHIN'S FIRST TIME MEETING DORAE-SENSEI.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S A CHALLENGE THE JITSUBOU STYLE CAN AFFORD TO IGNORE.
HMM...

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO JUDGE SHIN-SAN'S TALENT.
IF YOU LIKE.
YES!

YOU SURE I CAN USE A WEAPON?
THESE THINGS HURT. WELL, I'LL GO EASY ON YOU.
WHP
ヒュン
WUP
WUP
ヒュン
ヒュン
WUP
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
YES.
IF YOU DON'T USE YOUR STANDARD FIGHTING STYLE, THERE'S NO POINT.

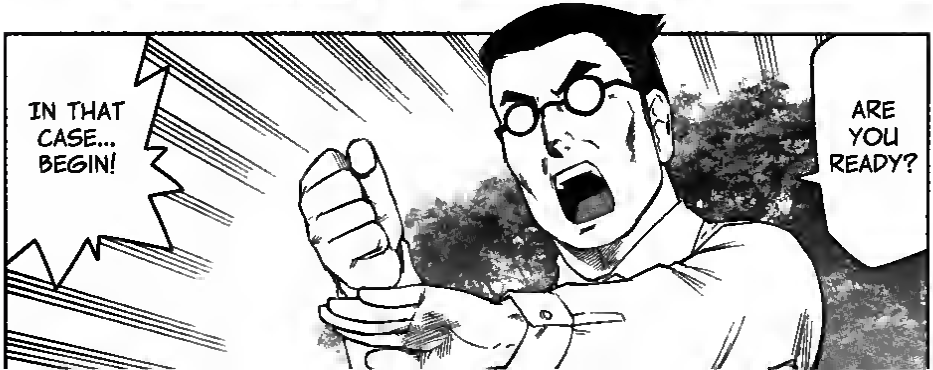

TONFA
First used by Okinawan karate masters, in modern times police and military use metal and plastic versions.
Originally made of wood, tonfa are sticks that reach slightly past the elbow in length when held by the handle.
THOSE ARE TONFA!
SHE SEEMS TO REALLY KNOW HOW TO USE THEM, TOO!


GRR...
WOULD ANY ENEMY REALLY ANSWER YOU IF YOU ASKED IF THEY HAD A WEAPON?
OH MY!
AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO USE A WEAPON?

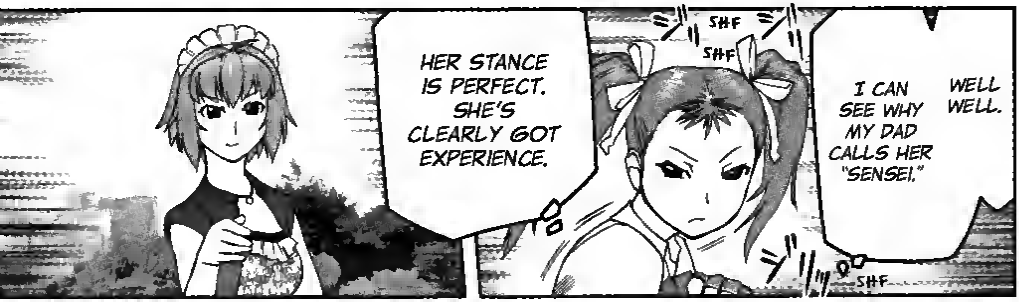
TAA-DAA
...IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
...IS THIS!

.....?!

I SUP-POSE MY WEAPON...
HOW-EVER...
SWI
ス...


IN THAT CASE... BEGIN!
ARE YOU READY?

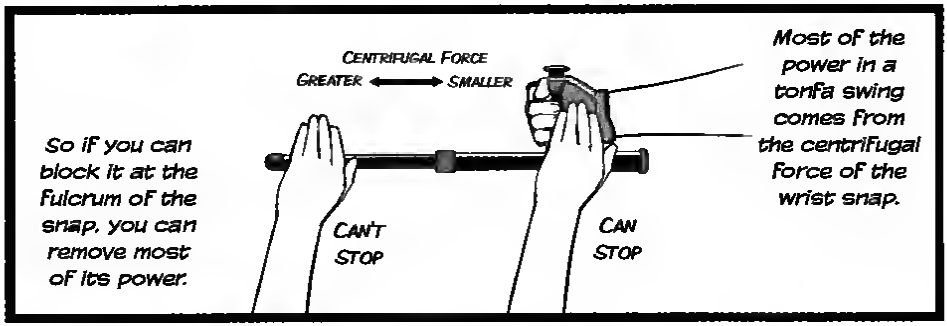
POSE

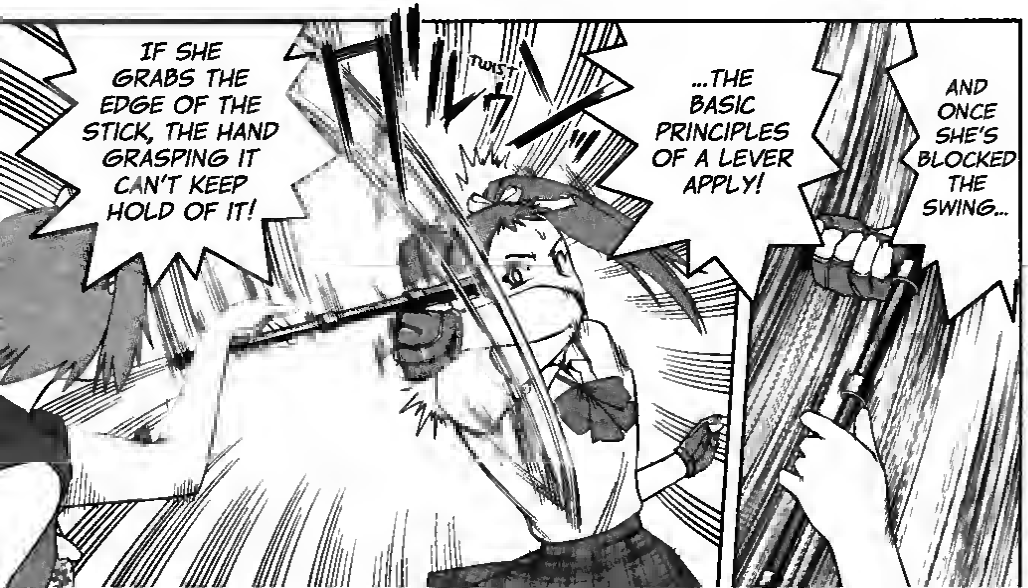

HER STANCE IS PERFECT. SHE'S CLEARLY GOT EXPERIENCE.
SHF
SHF
I CAN SEE WHY MY DAD CALLS HER "SENSEI."
WELL WELL.
SHF

...IS WITH YOUR LONGEST REACH ATTACK...
...AT THE SHORTEST DISTANCE!
BUT THAT MEANS I JUST HAVE TO GO WITH THE BASICS, TOO! THE FIRST STRIKE WHEN YOU USE A WEAPON...
DASH

I'LL DO A LOW, OUTSIDE STRIKE WITH MY DOMINANT HAND...
AND TAKE OUT HER FRONT LEG!
STEP
WUP
BLOCK
DEFLECT
SPIN
DAMN!

SHE'S STRIKING AT THE FULCRUM!
SHE STEPS IN SO FAST!
VUP
BLOCK
!!

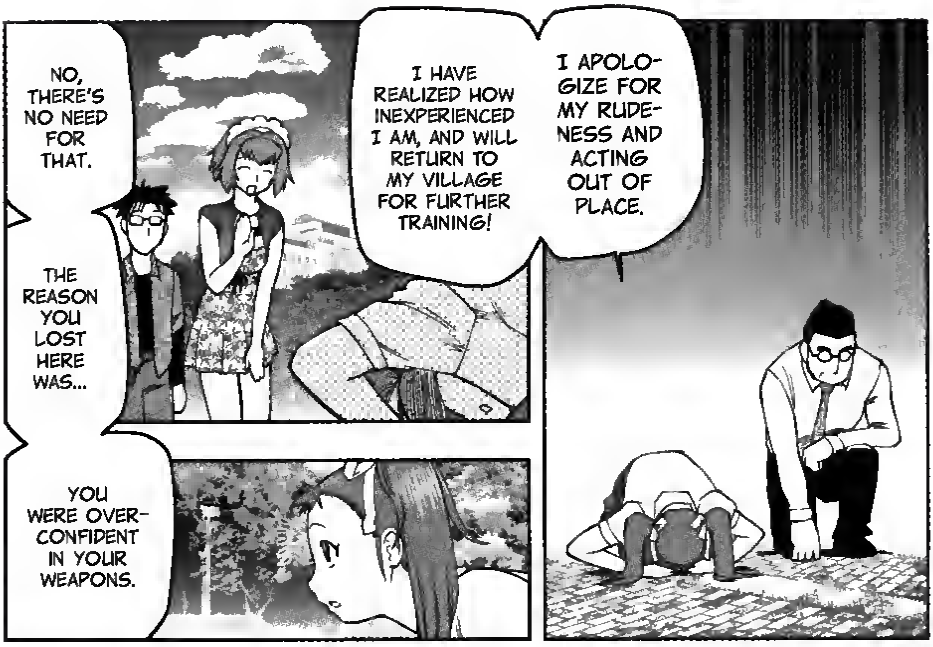

CENTRIFUGAL FORCE
GREATER
SMALLER
So if you can block it at the fulcrum of the snap, you can remove most of its power.
CAN'T STOP
CAN STOP
Most of the power in a tonfa swing comes from the centrifugal force of the wrist snap.


IF SHE GRABS THE EDGE OF THE STICK, THE HAND GRASPING IT CAN'T KEEP HOLD OF IT!
TWIST
...THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF A LEVER APPLY!
AND ONCE SHE'S BLOCKED THE SWING...

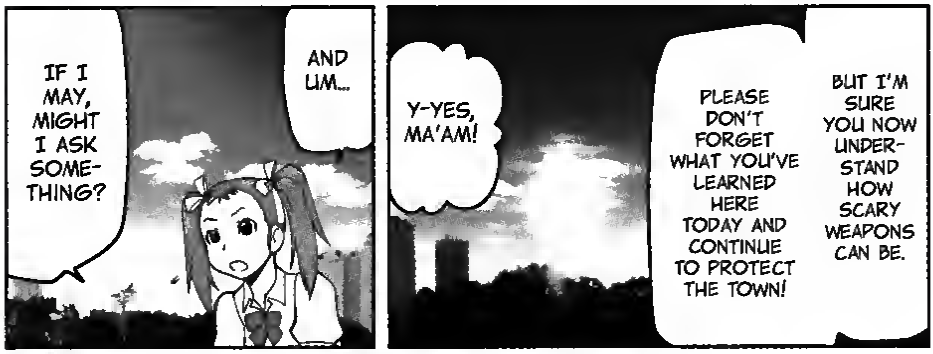
OH NO...
CLATTER
FUU
IF I LOSE THAT, IT'S ALL OVER!
GRAB
I'VE GOT IT BACK!
HA!
REACH
CLATTER

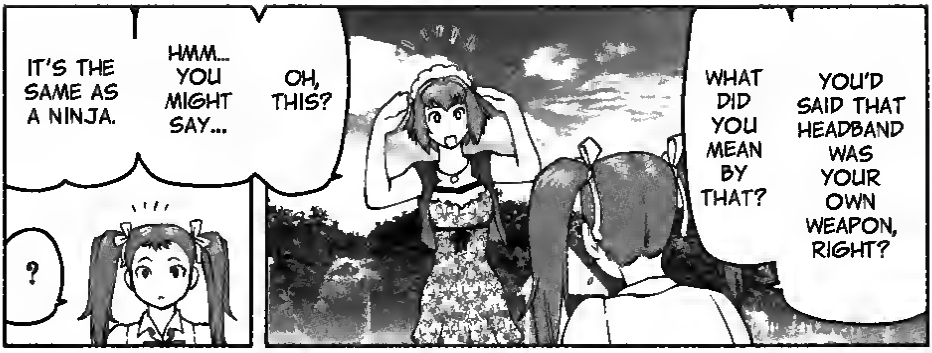
.....
WHOOSH
BLOCK
SWING
SPIN
GRAB
EXTEND

.....
MEIDOU STYLE STOLEN YOKE!
PULL
I GIVE UP!
I...


I APOLOGIZE FOR MY RUDENESS AND ACTING OUT OF PLACE.
I HAVE REALIZED HOW INEXPERIENCED I AM, AND WILL RETURN TO MY VILLAGE FOR FURTHER TRAINING!
NO, THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
THE REASON YOU LOST HERE WAS...
YOU WERE OVER-CONFIDENT IN YOUR WEAPONS.

AND IN THE END, YOUR OWN WEAPON WAS WHAT DEFEATED YOU.
YES, YOUR SKILL WITH WEAPON FIGHTING IS IMPRESSIVE. BUT YOU WERE TOO FOCUSED ON USING YOUR WEAPON, AND THUS MADE IT CLEAR TO ME WHAT ACTIONS YOU WOULD TAKE.

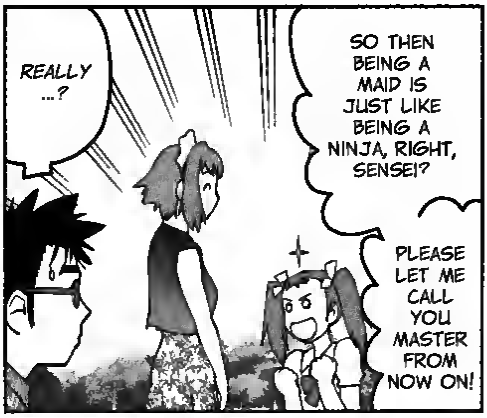

IF I MAY, MIGHT I ASK SOMETHING?
AND UM...
Y-YES, MA'AM!
PLEASE DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED HERE TODAY AND CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE TOWN!
BUT I'M SURE YOU NOW UNDERSTAND HOW SCARY WEAPONS CAN BE.


IT'S THE SAME AS A NINJA.
HMM... YOU MIGHT SAY...
OH, THIS?
?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?
YOU'D SAID THAT HEADBAND WAS YOUR OWN WEAPON, RIGHT?

IN OTHER WORDS, MY PRIDE AS A MAID IS MY GREATEST WEAPON!
THIS HEADBAND IS A SYMBOL OF MY ROLE AS A MAID.
YOU SEE? ♡

THE KANJI FOR NINJA IS WRITTEN...
忍
...WITH THE CHARACTERS FOR "BLADE" AND "HEART." SO THAT MEANS YOUR TRUE WEAPON LIES WITHIN YOUR HEART, YES?

SHE'S EVEN MORE MYSTERI-OUS NOW...
ANYWAY, SO DORAE-SAN KNOWS NINJA, TOO?
TO BE CONTINUED!


REALLY ...?
SO THEN BEING A MAID IS JUST LIKE BEING A NINJA, RIGHT, SENSEI?
PLEASE LET ME CALL YOU MASTER FROM NOW ON!

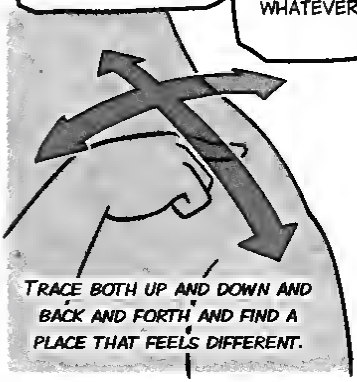
Miyabe-Sensei's Simple Martial Arts Corner BONUS 3

MOVING YOUR SHOULDERS AND KEEPING THEM WARM, ESPECIALLY THE SHOULDER BONES, IS IMPORTANT.

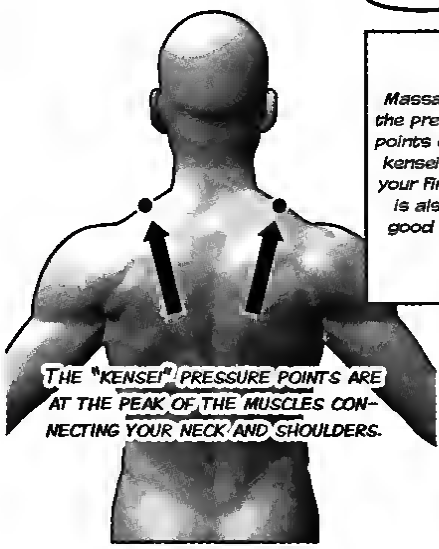
THE BEST THING TO DO WHEN YOUR SHOULDERS ARE STIFF IS TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF BLOOD TO THEM.

BUT IF YOU TRACE YOUR SHOULDER WITH YOUR FINGER AND FIND A SPOT THAT SEEMS ODDLY COLD OR DEPRESSED OR HARD, THAT'S YOUR PRESSURE POINT.

THE LOCATION'S DIFFERENT FOR EVERY PERSON, SO WE CAN'T SAY "HOWEVER MANY INCHES ABOVE YOUR WHATEVER."



TRACE BOTH UP AND DOWN AND BACK AND FORTH AND FIND A PLACE THAT FEELS DIFFERENT.



THE "KENSEI" PRESSURE POINTS ARE AT THE PEAK OF THE MUSCLES CONNECTING YOUR NECK AND SHOULDERS.

Massaging the pressure points called kensei with your fingers is also a good way

IF YOU THINK ONE OF THESE MIGHT APPLY TO YOU, TALK TO A DOCTOR!

GLASSES THAT ARE TOO WEAK OR TOO STRONG, TEETH THAT AREN'T IN ALIGNMENT, OR SOMETIMES DISEASES THAT AFFECT THE ORGANS CAN CAUSE STIFF SHOULDERS.

BAD SHOULDER STIFFNESS MIGHT BE CAUSED BY SOMETHING OTHER THAN YOUR SHOULDER MUSCLES

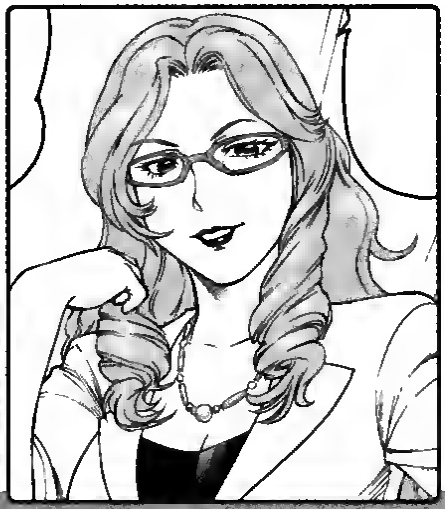
If you know where your pressure point is, then you may be able to get something at the drugstore to put on it.

THE IDEA WITH FINGER MASSAGE IS TO PRESS IN SLOWLY SO IT DOESN'T HURT.

EXHALE AND PRESS FOR FIVE SECONDS OR SO, THEN SLOWLY MOVE YOUR FINGER AWAY. REPEAT THIS SEVERAL TIMES.

Character Profile 6
Yuuko Minamoto

President of Walkure Dot Net, a major IT company
Age: 36
Height: 5' 5"



After founding WDN with some friends in her university days, her strong business skills made it one of the top IT companies in the country in just 10 years. She's very bright but has a tendency to make impulsive judgments. Her motto is "Careful planning, bold action."

She's the most important person on the TFTC, which runs Tsumanuda Fight Town. Although she has no martial arts experience herself, she has considerable skill in judging martial artists.

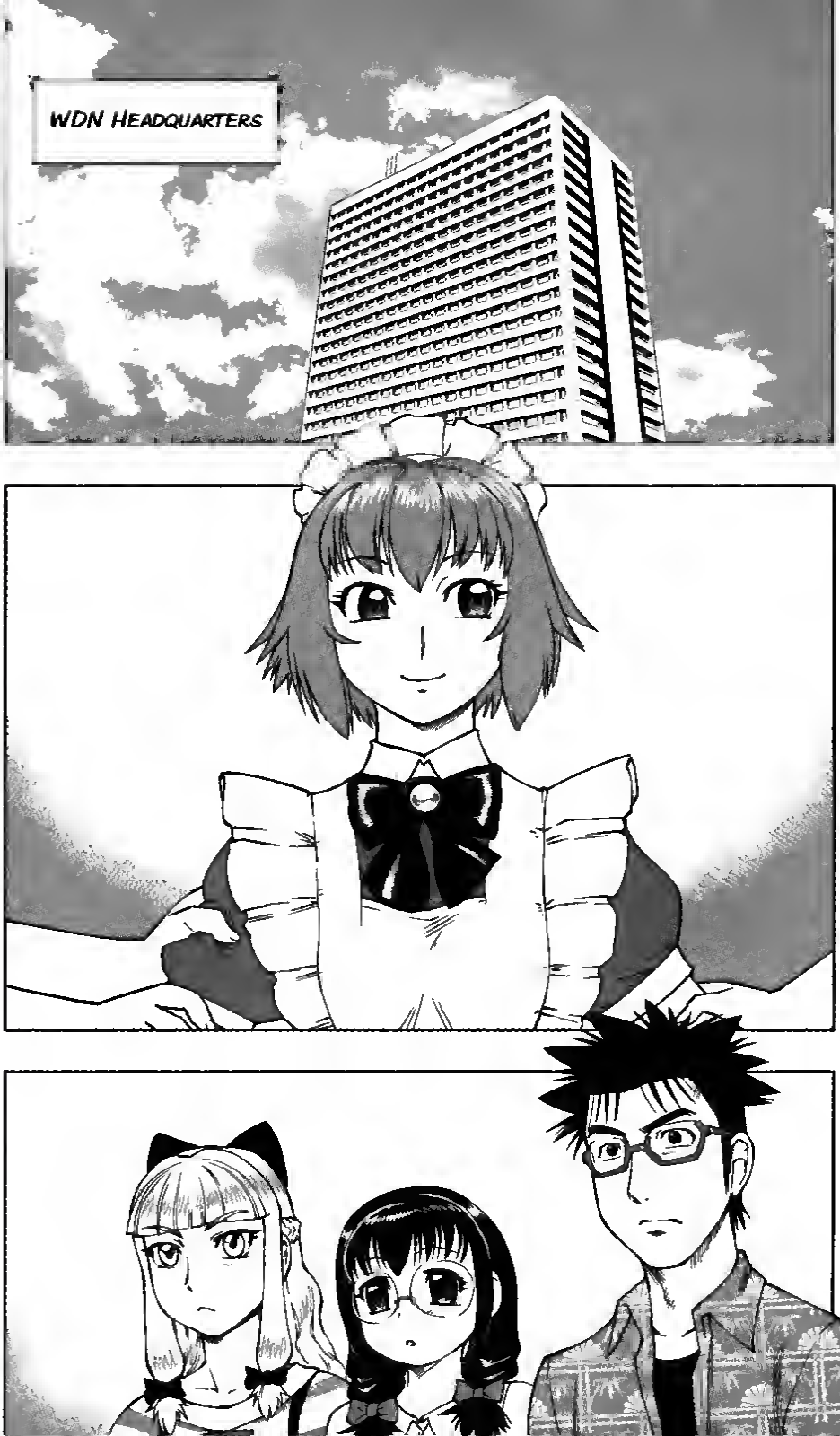
Character Profile 7
Yuzuka Minamoto

Age: 11
Sixth Grader
Height: 4' 8"

She's Yuuko Minamoto's only daughter. Her mother is always working, but Yuzuka has been very strictly brought up by her grandparents. So she is very mature for her age. Yuzuka is a good student at school but is bad with exercise. Her dream is to be a doctor and help the poor. She struggles with her mother's laxness at home but admires and respects her when she's working. Her father is working abroad.

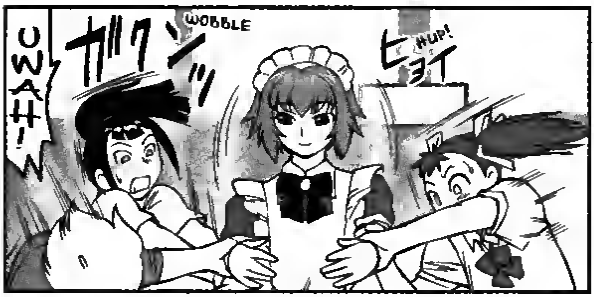
Her hobby is reading. She's also good with computers. Normally introverted and quiet, she sometimes takes bold action, a trait she gets from her mother.

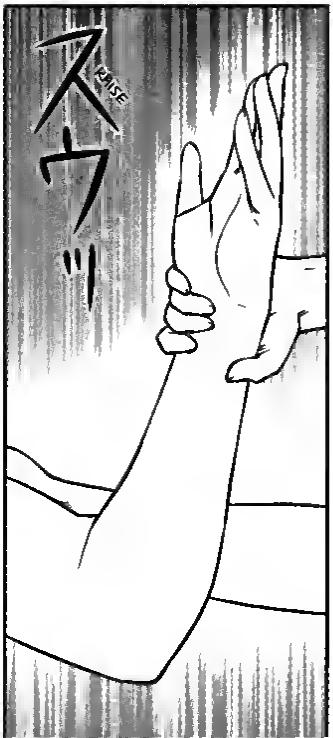
Fight 18: I Can't Even See Her!


WDN Headquarters

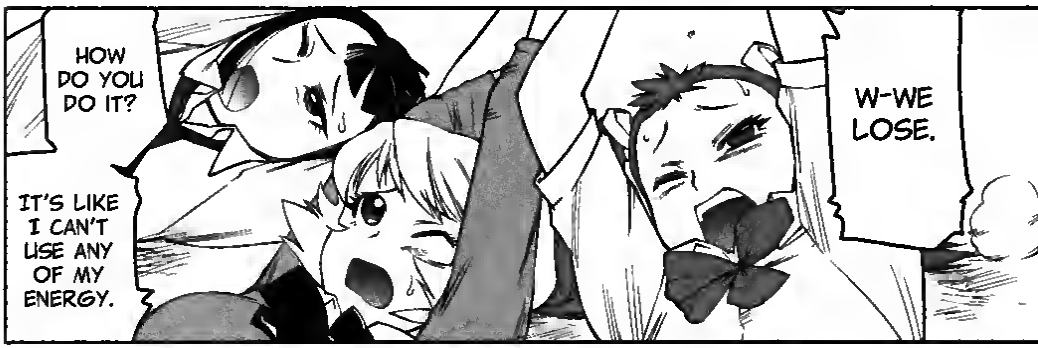
ARE YOU ALL READY?
HOLD AS HARD AS YOU CAN
RIGHT!

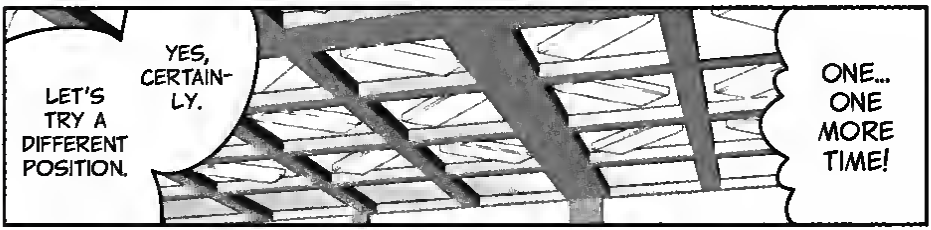
UGH...
PULL
PULL
AH!


WOBBLE
HUP!
UWAH!

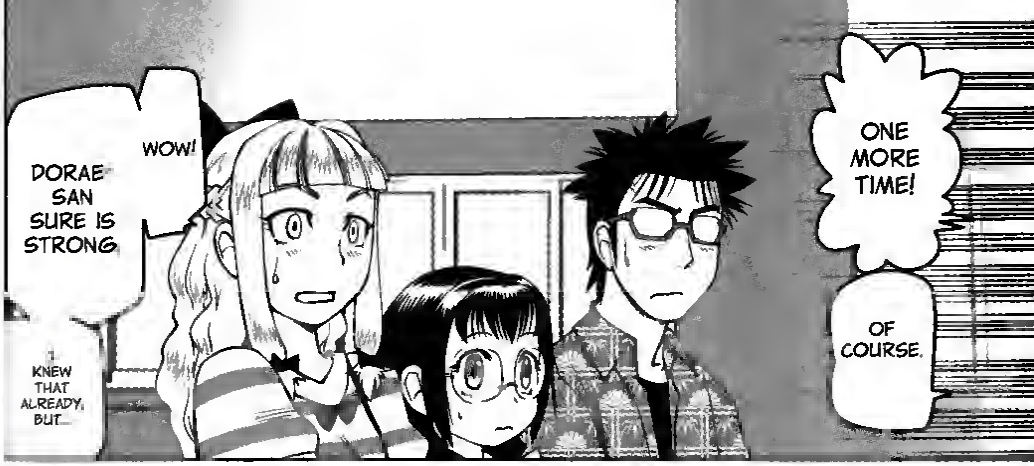

PAUSE

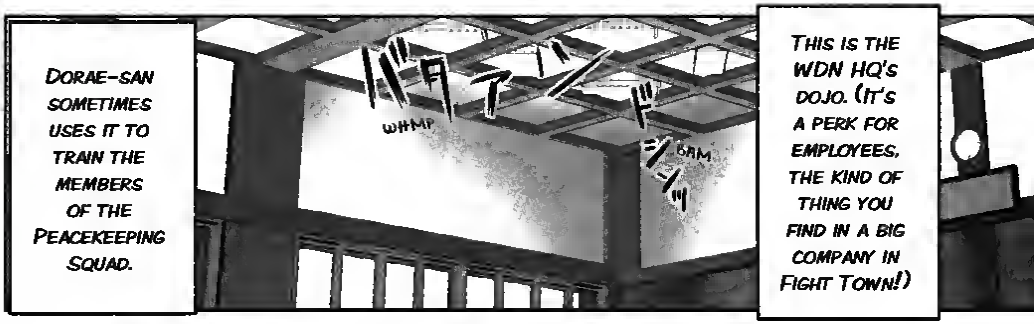
UWAH!
THUD
THUD
THUD

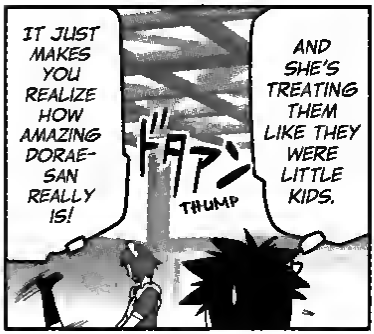

HOW DO YOU DO IT?
IT'S LIKE I CAN'T USE ANY OF MY ENERGY.
W-WE LOSE.

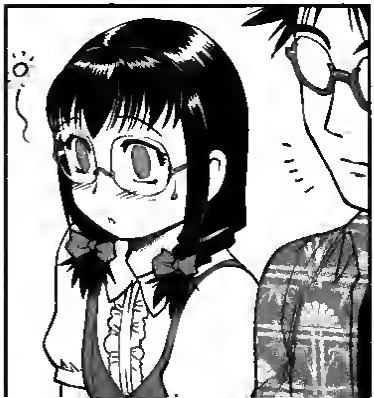

LET'S TRY A DIFFERENT POSITION.
YES, CERTAINLY.
ONE... ONE MORE TIME!

ARE YOU READY?
OKAY!
TUG
UWA!!
SLIDE
A!!
THUD
THUD
THUD


WOW!
DORAE SAN SURE IS STRONG.
I KNEW THAT ALREADY, BUT...
ONE MORE TIME!
OF COURSE.

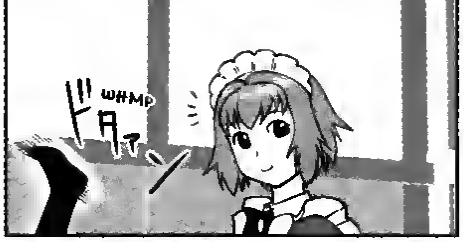

DORAE-SAN SOMETIMES USES IT TO TRAIN THE MEMBERS OF THE PEACEKEEPING SQUAD.
WHMP
BAM
THIS IS THE WDN HQ'S DOJO. (IT'S A PERK FOR EMPLOYEES, THE KIND OF THING YOU FIND IN A BIG COMPANY IN FIGHT TOWN!)

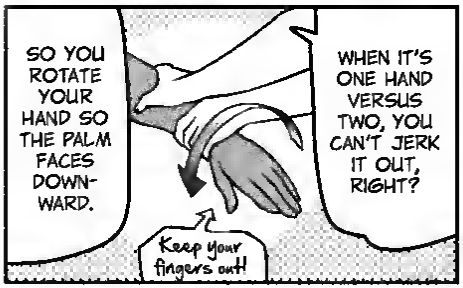

IT JUST MAKES YOU REALIZE HOW AMAZING DORAE-SAN REALLY IS!
THUMP
AND SHE'S TREATING THEM LIKE THEY WERE LITTLE KIDS.

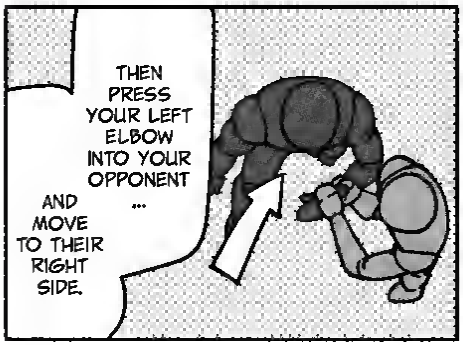


THE THREE GIRLS YOU SEE BEING TRAINED ARE MARTIAL ARTISTS WHO'VE BEEN STUDYING JITSUBOU STYLE NIN-JUTSU SINCE THEY WERE SMALL. MOST MEN WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE.
IT MAY LOOK LIKE JUST A BUNCH OF GIRLS MESSING AROUND. BUT IT'S SOMETHING TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
SHIN HATORI, AGE: 17
SUZUME HATORI, AGE: 16
MARI SHISHIO, AGE: 17
THEY ARE THE THREE COUSINS WHO CALL THEMSELVES "THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL NINJA KOGYARUNJA!"

BASICALLY DORAE-SAN IS REALLY STRONG, RIGHT?
TO BE HONEST, I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S GOING ON AT ALL.
I'M THE ONE WHO INSISTED YOU LET ME WATCH.
THUD
WHAM
N-NO, I'M FINE!
MAYBE THIS IS A BIT MUCH FOR A KID TO SEE.
YOU OKAY, YUZUKA-CHAN?
NON NON, YUZUCCHI!
THAT'S NOT STRENGTH. IT'S TECH-NIQUE!
TSK TSK
SO IF YOU RELY ON STRENGTH, YOU CAN'T BE A TRUE MARTIAL ARTIST!
TAA-DAA
ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED TO LET THE WEAK DEFEAT THE STRONG."
"MARTIAL ARTS ARE TECH-NIQUES THAT WERE...
YES, PLEASE!
WHILE I'M SHOWING OFF WHAT I LEARNED FROM DORAE-SAN, WHY DON'T I TEACH YOU A TECH-NIQUE SHE SHOWED ME?
OF COURSE! SO?
WHY IS SHE BEING SO FULL OF HERSELF?
YOU JUST STOLE THAT OUTRIGHT FROM DORAE-SAN


!! WHMP


SO YOU ROTATE YOUR HAND SO THE PALM FACES DOWN-WARD.
WHEN IT'S ONE HAND VERSUS TWO, YOU CAN'T JERK IT OUT, RIGHT?
Keep your fingers out!

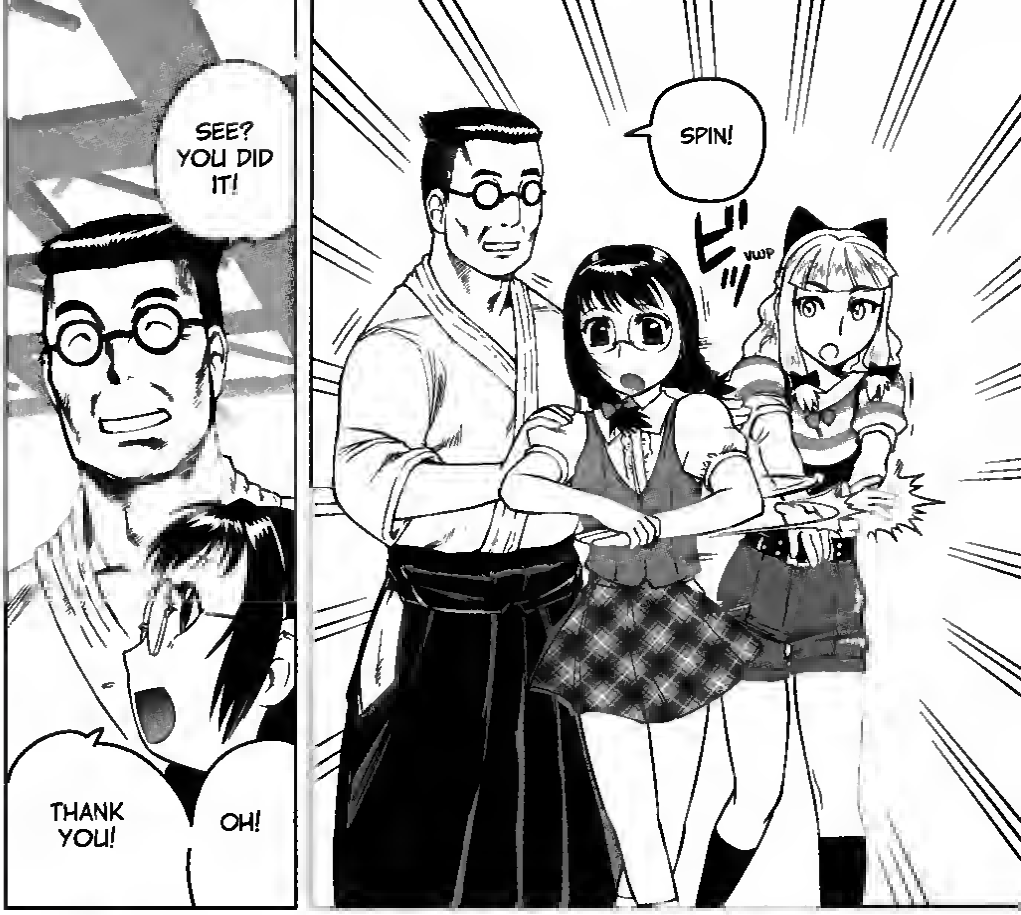

THEN PRESS YOUR LEFT ELBOW INTO YOUR OPPONENT ...
AND MOVE TO THEIR RIGHT SIDE.

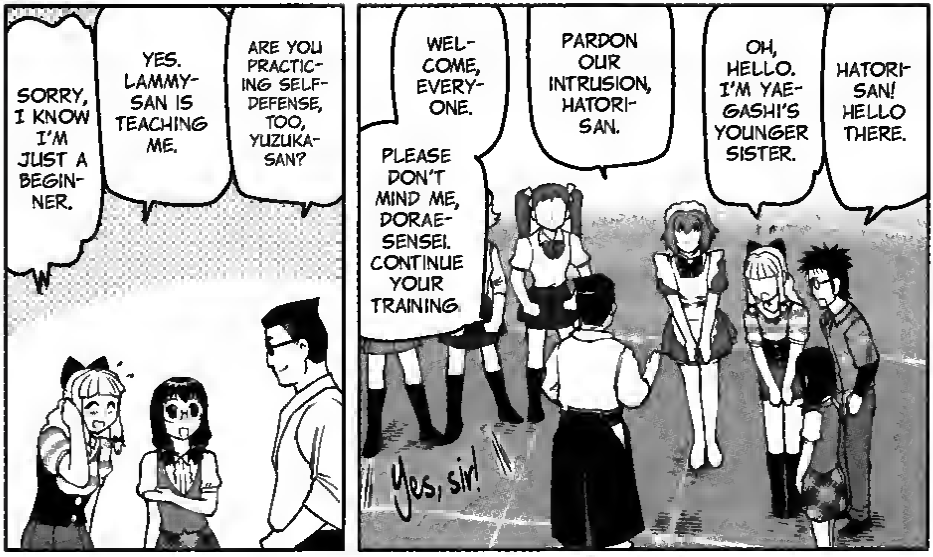
FIRST, IS FOR WHEN SOMEONE GRABS YOUR ARM WITH BOTH HANDS.
GRAB IT HARD, OKAY?
O-OKAY!

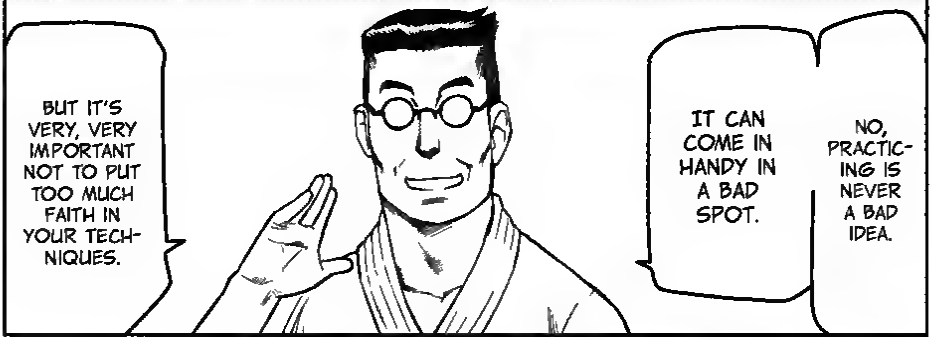
LIKE THIS! ♪
VUP
Ah!

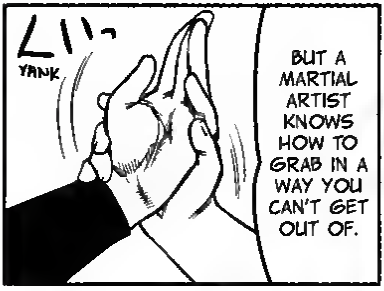
FINALLY, SPIN TO THE RIGHT.

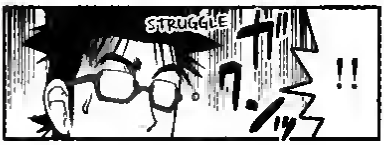
I'LL HAVE TO START WORKING HARDER MYSELF.
WHEN DID LAMMY GET THAT GOOD?
HMM...
NOW YOU TRY IT.
RIGHT?
AMAZ-ING! I COULDN'T EVEN TRY TO STOP YOU.
UM... TWIST THE WRIST THEY GRABBED...
PUT YOUR PALM DOWN...
I-IT'S HARD TO DO!
BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST PUSHING WITH YOUR ARM. PUSH WITH YOUR WHOLE BODY.
SWIP
BUT IT'S NOT MOVING AT ALL!
THEN PRESS YOUR ELBOW INTO YOUR OPPO-NENT, RIGHT?
AND THEN, LIKE YOU WERE TURNING BACK AND TO THE RIGHT...
THEN GRAB IT WITH THE RIGHT.
RELAX THE LEFT HAND, THE ONE THEY'RE GRAB-BING.
IT'S BETTER NOT TO DO IT WITH JUST ONE HAND.
WHEN THE OPPO-NENT IS STRON-GER THAN YOU...

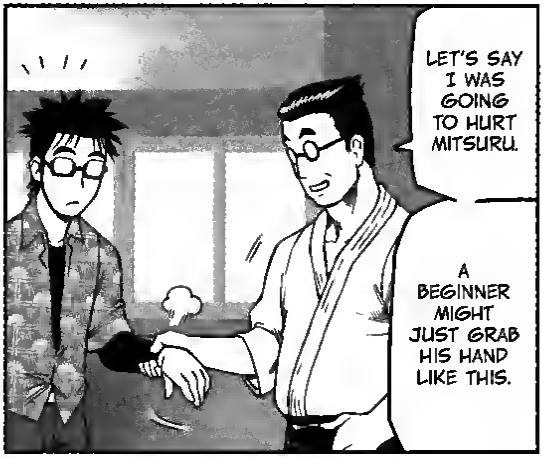

SEE? YOU DID IT!
THANK YOU!
OH!
SPIN!
YUUP


SORRY, I KNOW I'M JUST A BEGINNER.
YES. LAMMY-SAN IS TEACHING ME.
ARE YOU PRACTICING SELF-DEFENSE, TOO, YUZUKA-SAN?
WELCOME, EVERYONE.
PLEASE DON'T MIND ME, DORAE-SENSEI. CONTINUE YOUR TRAINING.
PARDON OUR INTRUSION, HATORI-SAN.
OH, HELLO. I'M YAEGASHI'S YOUNGER SISTER.
HATORI-SAN! HELLO THERE.
Yes, sir!

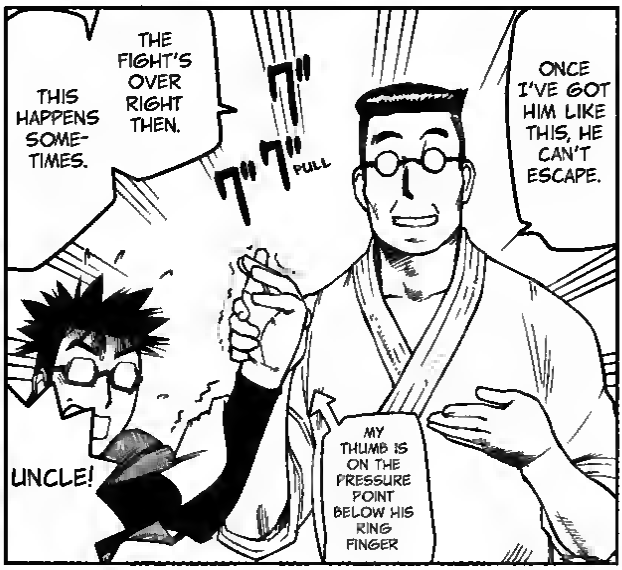

BUT IT'S VERY, VERY IMPORTANT NOT TO PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN YOUR TECHNIQUES.
NO, PRACTICING IS NEVER A BAD IDEA.
IT CAN COME IN HANDY IN A BAD SPOT.


YANK
BUT A MARTIAL ARTIST KNOWS HOW TO GRAB IN A WAY YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF.

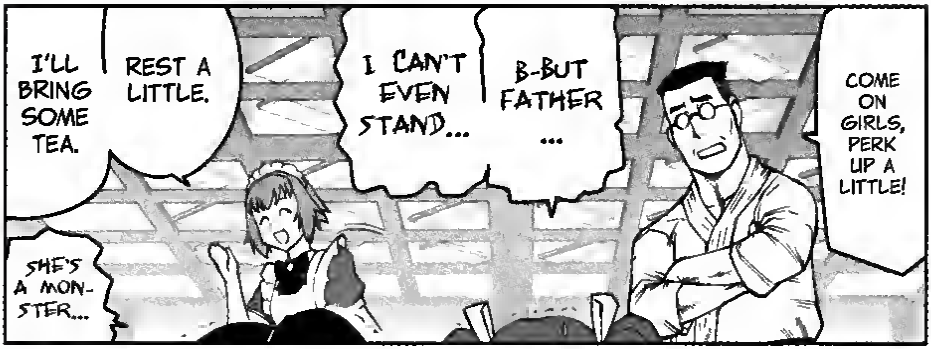

STRUGGLE
!!

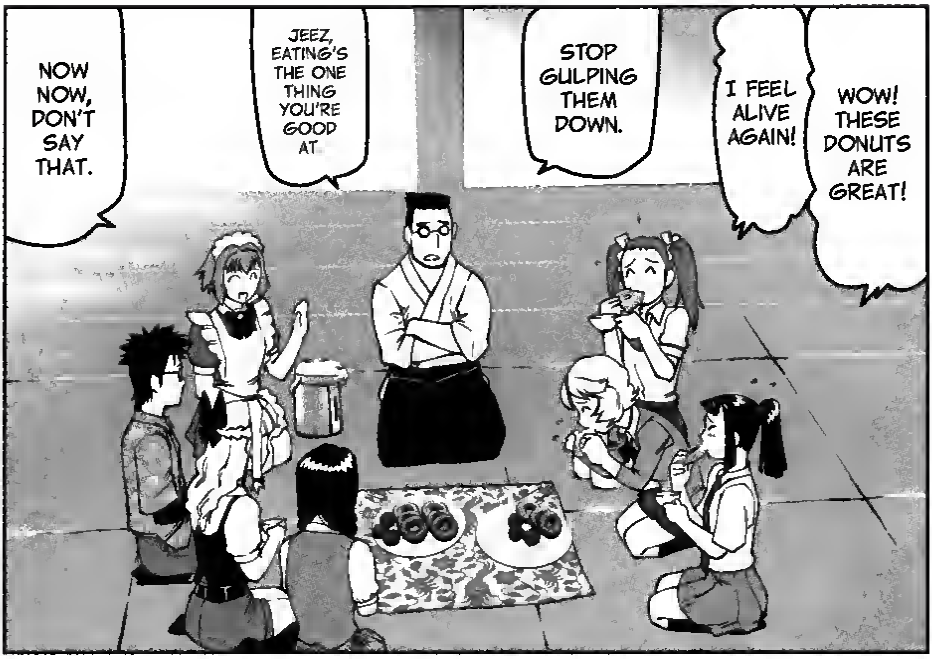

LET'S SAY I WAS GOING TO HURT MITSURU.
A BEGINNER MIGHT JUST GRAB HIS HAND LIKE THIS.

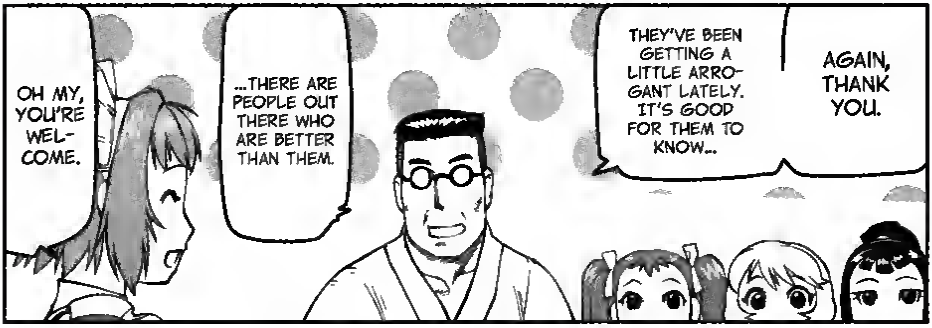
NEVER FORGET THAT!
THE BASICS OF SELF-DEFENSE ARE "DON'T GO WHERE IT'S DANGEROUS" AND "IF YOU FEEL IT'S DANGEROUS, LEAVE."
I-I GET IT, SO PLEASE LET HIM GO!


THIS HAPPENS SOMETIMES.
THE FIGHT'S OVER RIGHT THEN.
PULL
ONCE I'VE GOT HIM LIKE THIS, HE CAN'T ESCAPE.
UNCLE!
MY THUMB IS ON THE PRESSURE POINT BELOW HIS RING FINGER

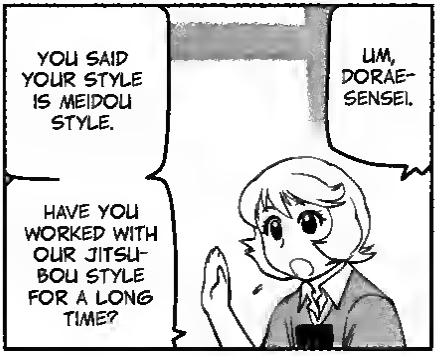
* Sign NEVER STOP TRAINING




NOW NOW, DON'T SAY THAT.
JEEZ, EATING'S THE ONE THING YOU'RE GOOD AT.
STOP GULPING THEM DOWN.
I FEEL ALIVE AGAIN!
WOW! THESE DONUTS ARE GREAT!


OH MY, YOU'RE WELCOME.
...THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO ARE BETTER THAN THEM.
THEY'VE BEEN GETTING A LITTLE ARROGANT LATELY. IT'S GOOD FOR THEM TO KNOW...
AGAIN, THANK YOU.

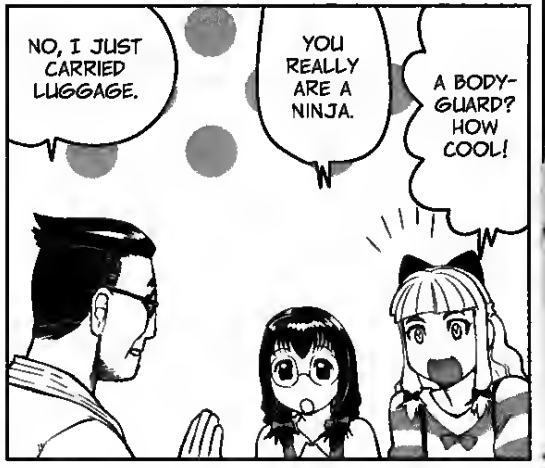
NO, I DON'T BELIEVE SO.
SO WHY ARE YOU TRAINING US LIKE THIS THEN?

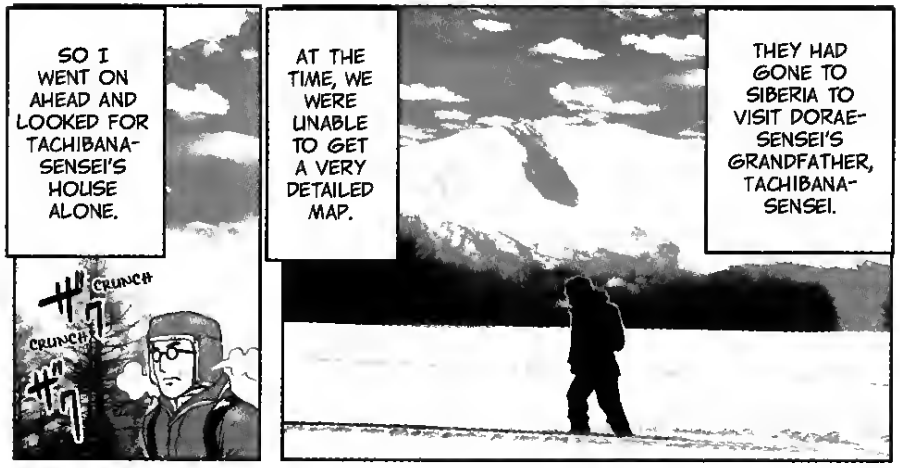

UM, DORAE-SENSEI.
YOU SAID YOUR STYLE IS MEIDOU STYLE.
HAVE YOU WORKED WITH OUR JITSU-BOU STYLE FOR A LONG TIME?

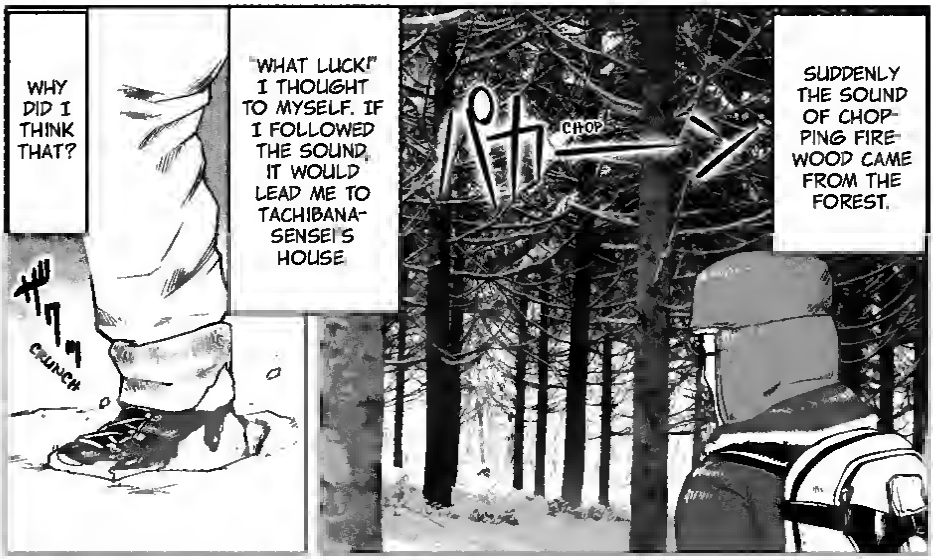
I MET DORAE-SENSEI AROUND 10 YEARS AGO.
I WAS VISITING SIBERIA AS A BODY GUARD FOR A CERTAIN PERSON.

NO... YOU HAVE BEEN A GREAT HELP TO ME, START-ING FROM WHEN I WAS A BODY-GUARD.

I'M AFRAID THAT'S A BIT TOO PERSONAL A QUESTION TO ANSWER.
BUT I'VE KNOWN YOUR HEAD MASTER FOR AROUND 10 YEARS, AND HE'S BEEN A GREAT HELP.
MY GRAND-FATHER ALSO WANTED ME TO INTERACT WITH OTHER STYLES AS WELL.
YOUR GRAND-FATHER WHO DIED?
THAT'S RIGHT.


NO, I JUST CARRIED LUGGAGE.
YOU REALLY ARE A NINJA.
A BODY-GUARD? HOW COOL!


THEY HAD GONE TO SIBERIA TO VISIT DORAE-SENSEI'S GRANDFATHER, TACHIBANA-SENSEI.
AT THE TIME, WE WERE UNABLE TO GET A VERY DETAILED MAP.
SO I WENT ON AHEAD AND LOOKED FOR TACHIBANA-SENSEI'S HOUSE ALONE.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

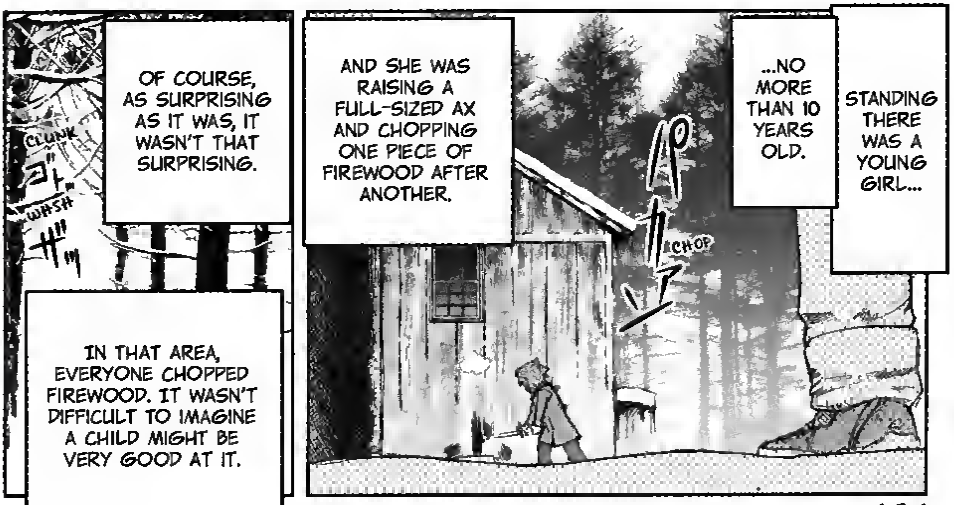

WHY DID I THINK THAT?
CRUNCH
"WHAT LUCK!" I THOUGHT TO MYSELF. IF I FOLLOWED THE SOUND, IT WOULD LEAD ME TO TACHIBANA-SENSEI'S HOUSE.
CHOP
SUDDENLY THE SOUND OF CHOPPING FIREWOOD CAME FROM THE FOREST.

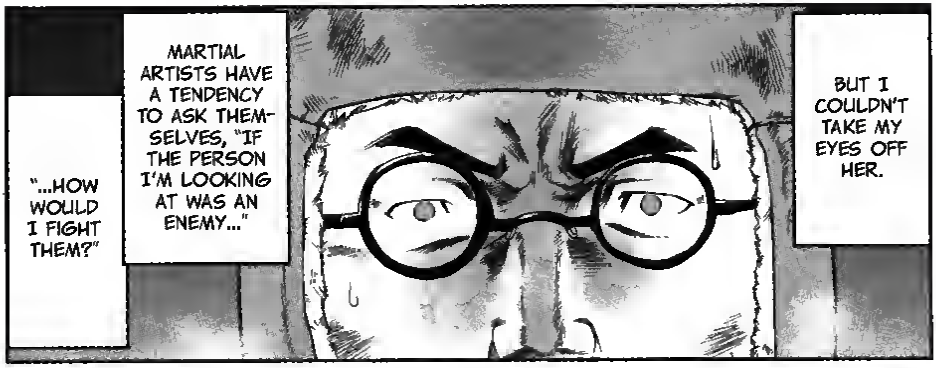
THERE WAS NO VARIATION IN THE RHYTHM AT ALL. THE SOUND TOLD ME THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF A MASTER.
THE SOUND OF THE WOOD BEING CHOPPED.
CHOP
THE SOUND OF THE AXE BEING RAISED.
WHSH
CLUNK
THE SOUND OF THE WOOD BEING PLACED.

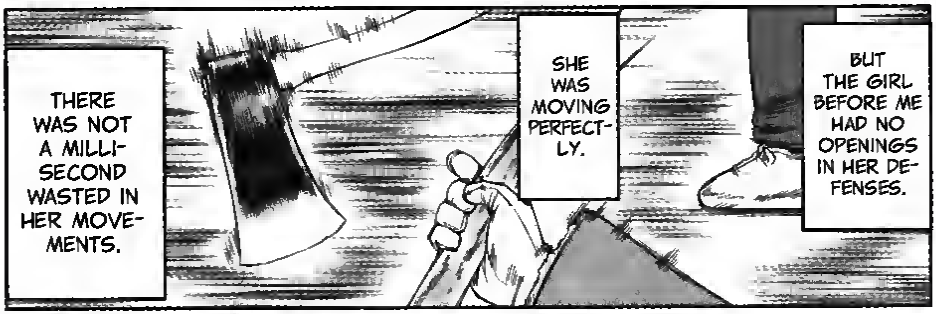
CHOP
...WHAT I SAW WAS...
WHSH
BUT WHEN I GOT THERE...
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

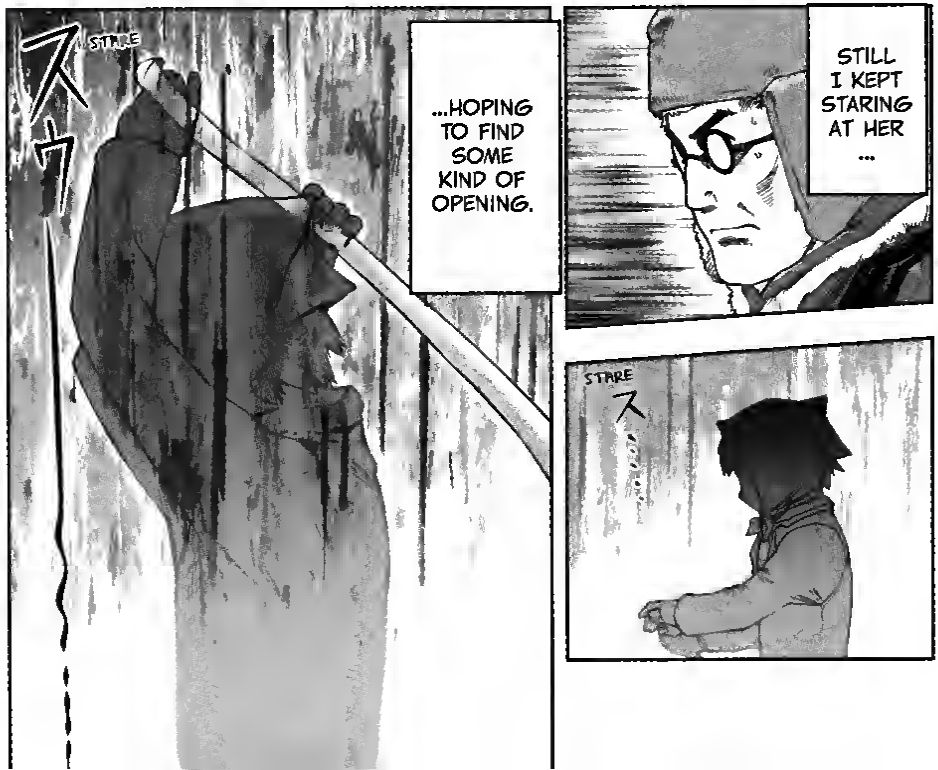
ゴトッ
CLUNK

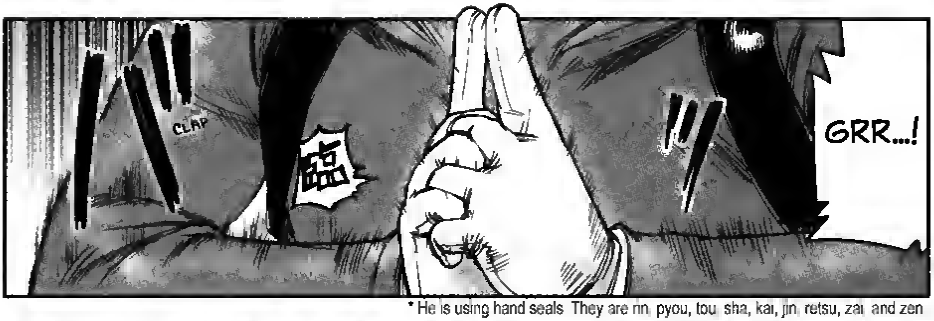
CHOP
WASH


STANDING THERE WAS A YOUNG GIRL...
...NO MORE THAN 10 YEARS OLD.
CHOP
AND SHE WAS RAISING A FULL-SIZED AX AND CHOPPING ONE PIECE OF FIREWOOD AFTER ANOTHER.
OF COURSE, AS SURPRISING AS IT WAS, IT WASN'T THAT SURPRISING.
CLUNK
WASH
IN THAT AREA, EVERYONE CHOPPED FIREWOOD. IT WASN'T DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE A CHILD MIGHT BE VERY GOOD AT IT.

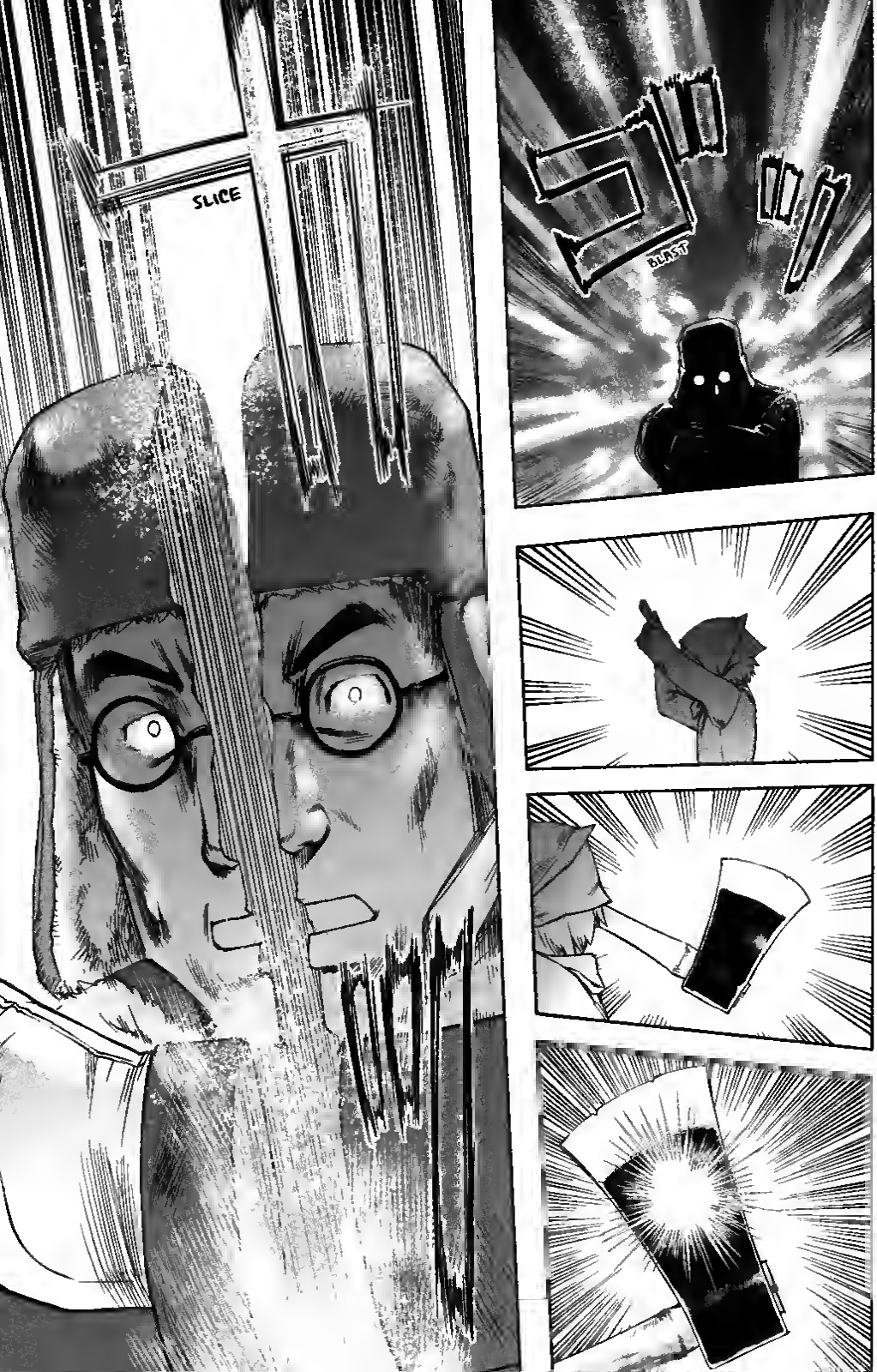

"...HOW WOULD I FIGHT THEM?"
MARTIAL ARTISTS HAVE A TENDENCY TO ASK THEMSELVES, "IF THE PERSON I'M LOOKING AT WAS AN ENEMY..."
BUT I COULDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF HER.


THERE WAS NOT A MILLISECOND WASTED IN HER MOVEMENTS.
SHE WAS MOVING PERFECTLY.
BUT THE GIRL BEFORE ME HAD NO OPENINGS IN HER DEFENSES.

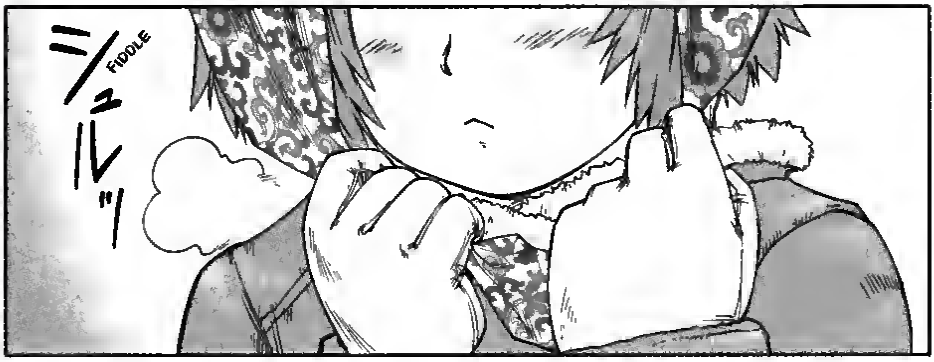

STARE
...HOPING TO FIND SOME KIND OF OPENING.
STILL I KEPT STARING AT HER ...
STARE



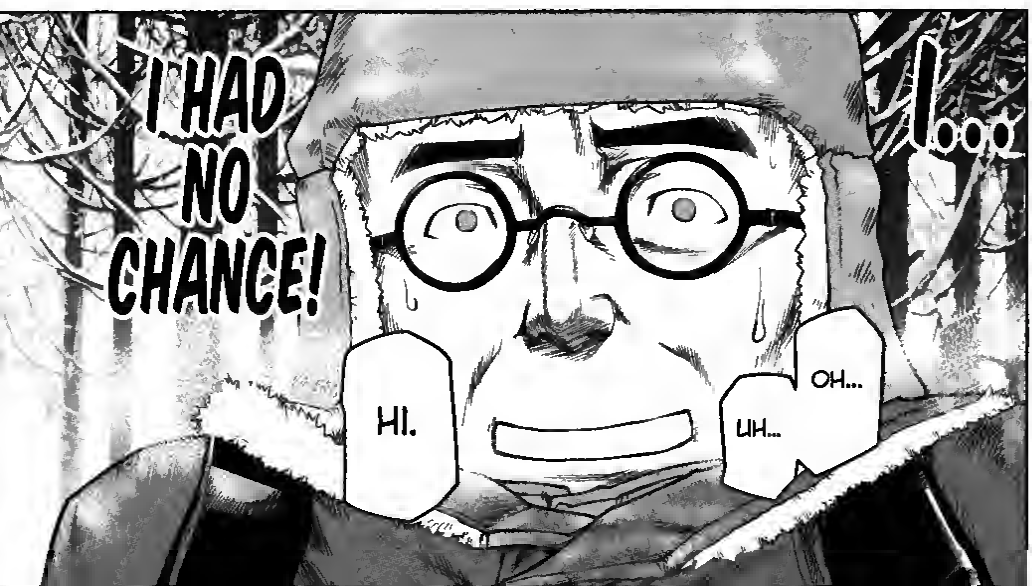
* He is using hand seals. They are rin, pyou, tou, sha, kai, jin, retsu, zai, and zen.

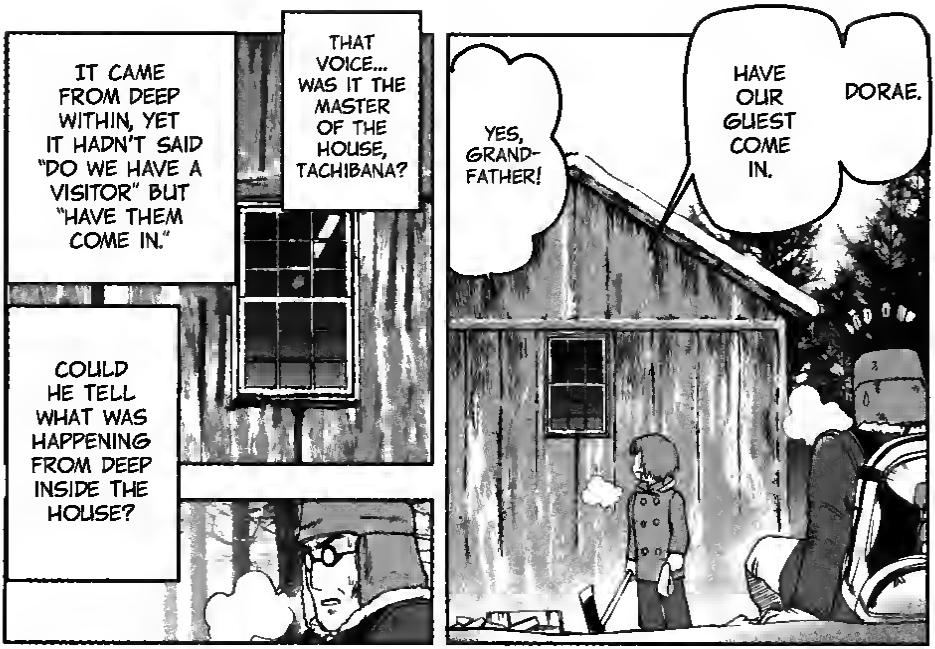

SLICE
BLAST

UWAAH!
TRUM
……


FIDDLE

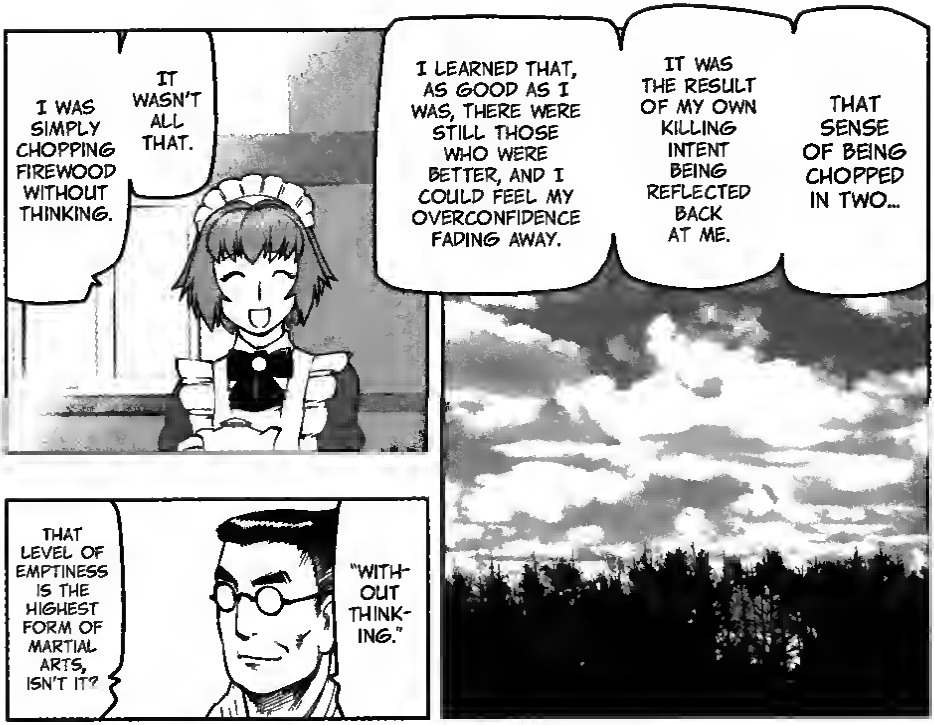
HI!

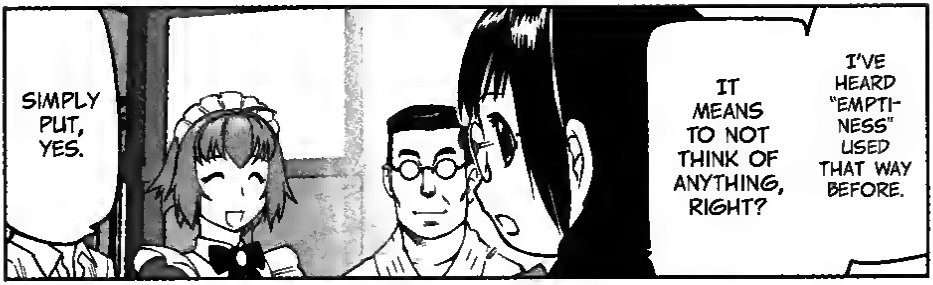

I HAD NO CHANCE!
!...
HI.
UH...
OH...


IT CAME FROM DEEP WITHIN, YET IT HADN'T SAID "DO WE HAVE A VISITOR" BUT "HAVE THEM COME IN."
THAT VOICE... WAS IT THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE, TACHIBANA?
COULD HE TELL WHAT WAS HAPPENING FROM DEEP INSIDE THE HOUSE?
DORAE.
HAVE OUR GUEST COME IN.
YES, GRAND-FATHER!

SWISH

A FOOLISH QUESTION.
IF HE HAD RAISED THAT CHILD, OF COURSE HE COULD!
COME IN, SIR!


I WAS SIMPLY CHOPPING FIREWOOD WITHOUT THINKING.
IT WASN'T ALL THAT.
I LEARNED THAT, AS GOOD AS I WAS, THERE WERE STILL THOSE WHO WERE BETTER, AND I COULD FEEL MY OVERCONFIDENCE FADING AWAY.
IT WAS THE RESULT OF MY OWN KILLING INTENT BEING REFLECTED BACK AT ME.
THAT SENSE OF BEING CHOPPED IN TWO...
THAT LEVEL OF EMPTINESS IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF MARTIAL ARTS, ISN'T IT?
"WITHOUT THINKING."

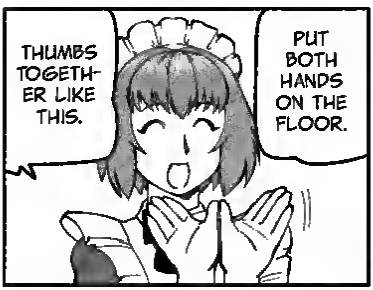

SIMPLY PUT, YES.
IT MEANS TO NOT THINK OF ANYTHING, RIGHT?
I'VE HEARD "EMPTINESS" USED THAT WAY BEFORE.

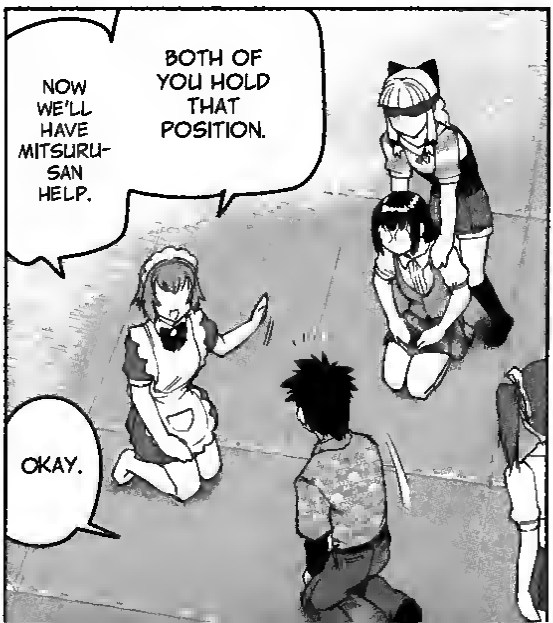
AN EXCELLENT QUESTION.
AND PEOPLE CAN'T ACT WITHOUT THINKING, RIGHT?
MY MOM AND TEACHERS ALWAYS TELL ME TO THINK HARD.
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT THAT... DOES IT MEAN THAT NOT THINKING MAKES YOU STRONGER?

LET'S TRY IT ONCE.
STAND UP, YUZUKA-CHAN.
WHEN YUZUKA-SAN TRIES TO GET UP, HOLD HER DOWN.

LAMMY-SAN, PUT YOUR HANDS ON HER LIGHTLY.

IT'S NO GOOD! I CAN'T.
GAH!
OKAY, RIGHT.


THUMBS TOGETH-ER LIKE THIS.
PUT BOTH HANDS ON THE FLOOR.

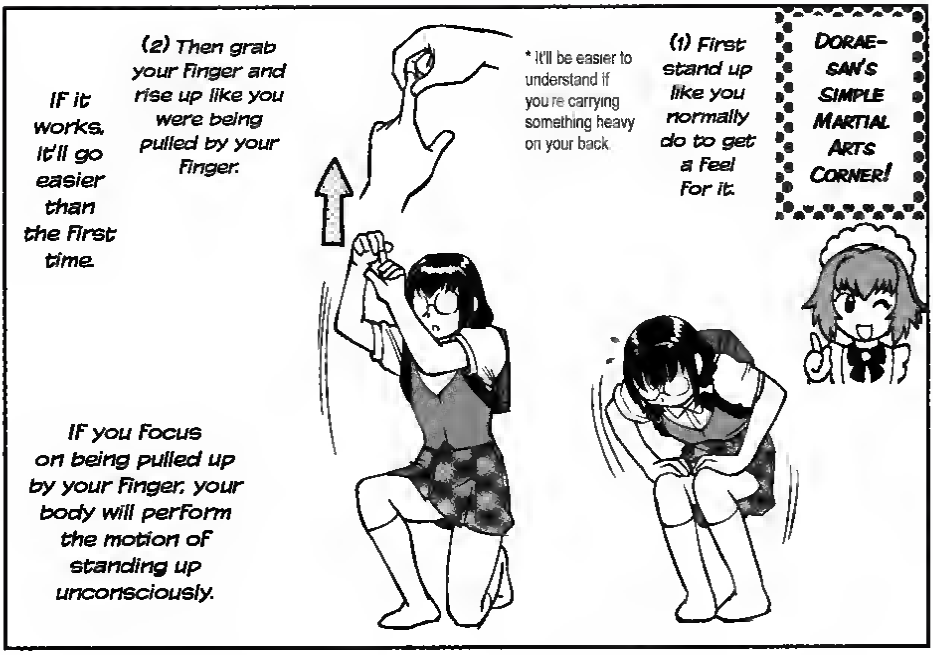

NOW WE'LL HAVE MITSURU-SAN HELP.
BOTH OF YOU HOLD THAT POSITION.
OKAY.

EXCUSE ME. ♪
LIKE THIS?

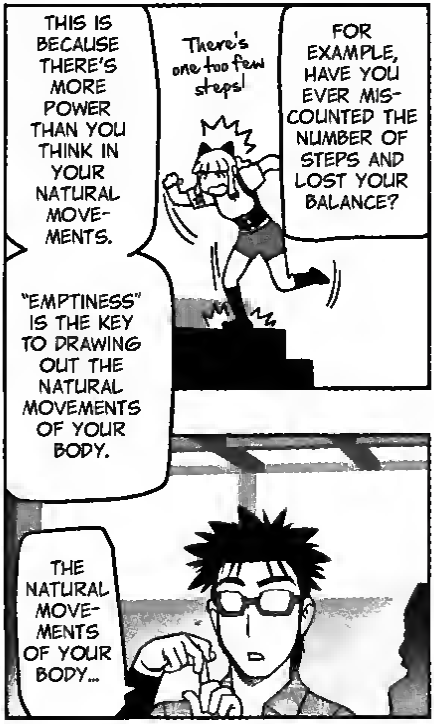
I'LL POUR SOME TEA.
A CUP RIGHT HERE.
NOW I'LL PUT...
Lalala...
(Paul Mauriat)
?!
WELL, THAT WOULD BE DANGER-OUS.
UM... I CAN'T MOVE.
AND IT'S REALLY HOT!
?

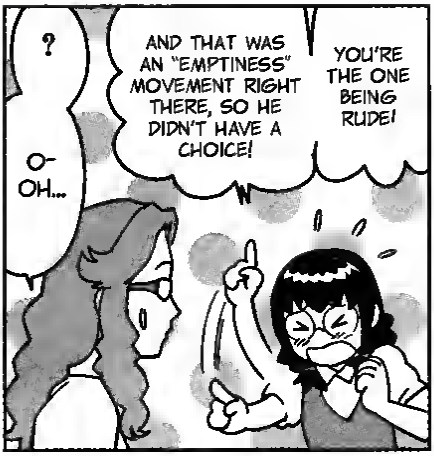
WATCH OUT! IT'S GOING TO SPILL!
AH!
UH...
TIP

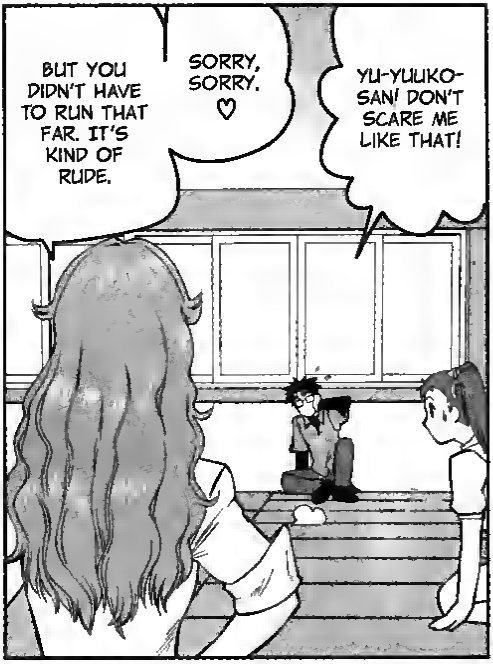
THUMP
ドタァ
YANK
グイン
?!
UM...
ARE YOU OKAY, LAMMY-SAN?
OW!
?!
WITH-OUT THINK-ING?
I'M SORRY. I STOOD UP WITHOUT THINKING...
BUT THAT WAS AMAZING JUST NOW, YUZUCCHI!
I'M FINE! I'M FINE!
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHEN YOU MOVE "WITH-OUT THINK-ING," YOU'RE MUCH MORE POWERFUL.
IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN BY "EMPTI-NESS"?
BUT WHEN YOU DID IT "WITHOUT THINK-ING," YOU WERE ABLE TO!
WHEN YOU TRIED TO STAND UP WITH YOUR SHOULDERS PRESSED DOWN, YOU COULDN'T.
ODD, ISN'T IT?

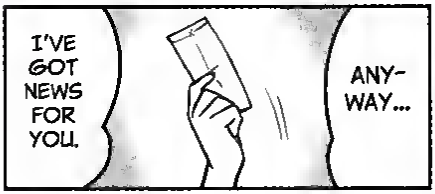

DORAE-SAN'S SIMPLE MARTIAL ARTS CORNER!
(1) First stand up like you normally do to get a feel for it.
* it'll be easier to understand if you're carrying something heavy on your back.
(2) Then grab your finger and rise up like you were being pulled by your finger.
If it works, it'll go easier than the first time.
If you focus on being pulled up by your finger, your body will perform the motion of standing up unconsciously.

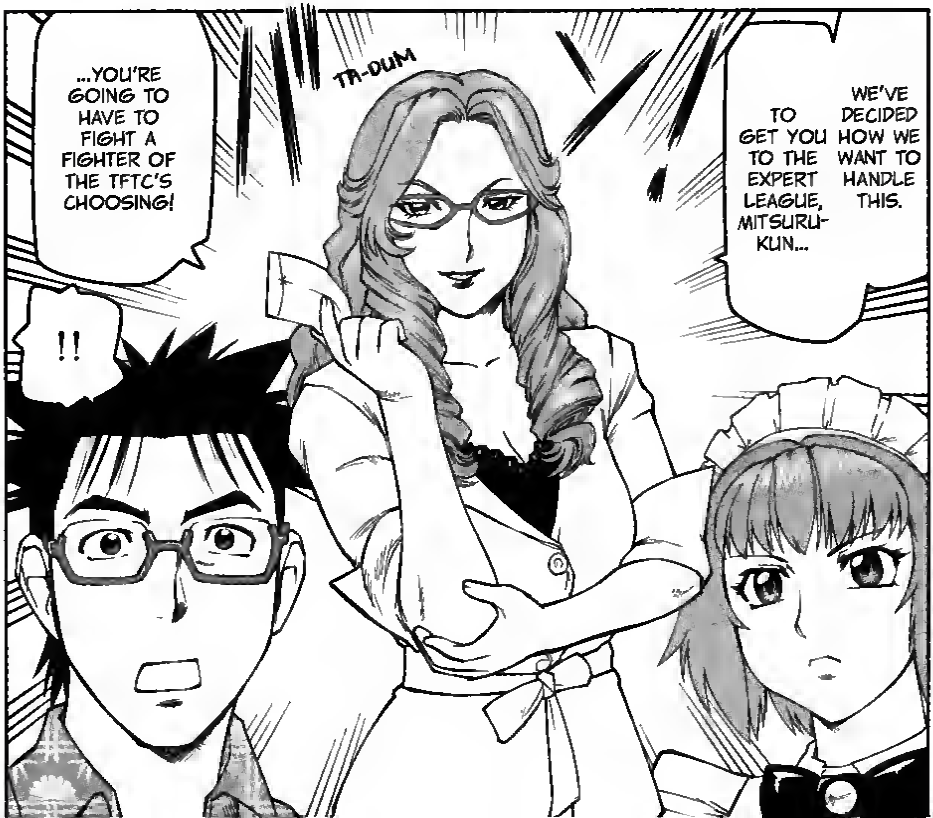
HYAH!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR BODY?
GLOMP
PUFF


THIS IS BECAUSE THERE'S MORE POWER THAN YOU THINK IN YOUR NATURAL MOVEMENTS.
There's one too few steps!
FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE YOU EVER MISCOUNTED THE NUMBER OF STEPS AND LOST YOUR BALANCE?
"EMPTINESS" IS THE KEY TO DRAWING OUT THE NATURAL MOVEMENTS OF YOUR BODY.
THE NATURAL MOVEMENTS OF YOUR BODY...


?
O-OH...
AND THAT WAS AN "EMPTINESS" MOVEMENT RIGHT THERE, SO HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE!
YOU'RE THE ONE BEING RUDE!

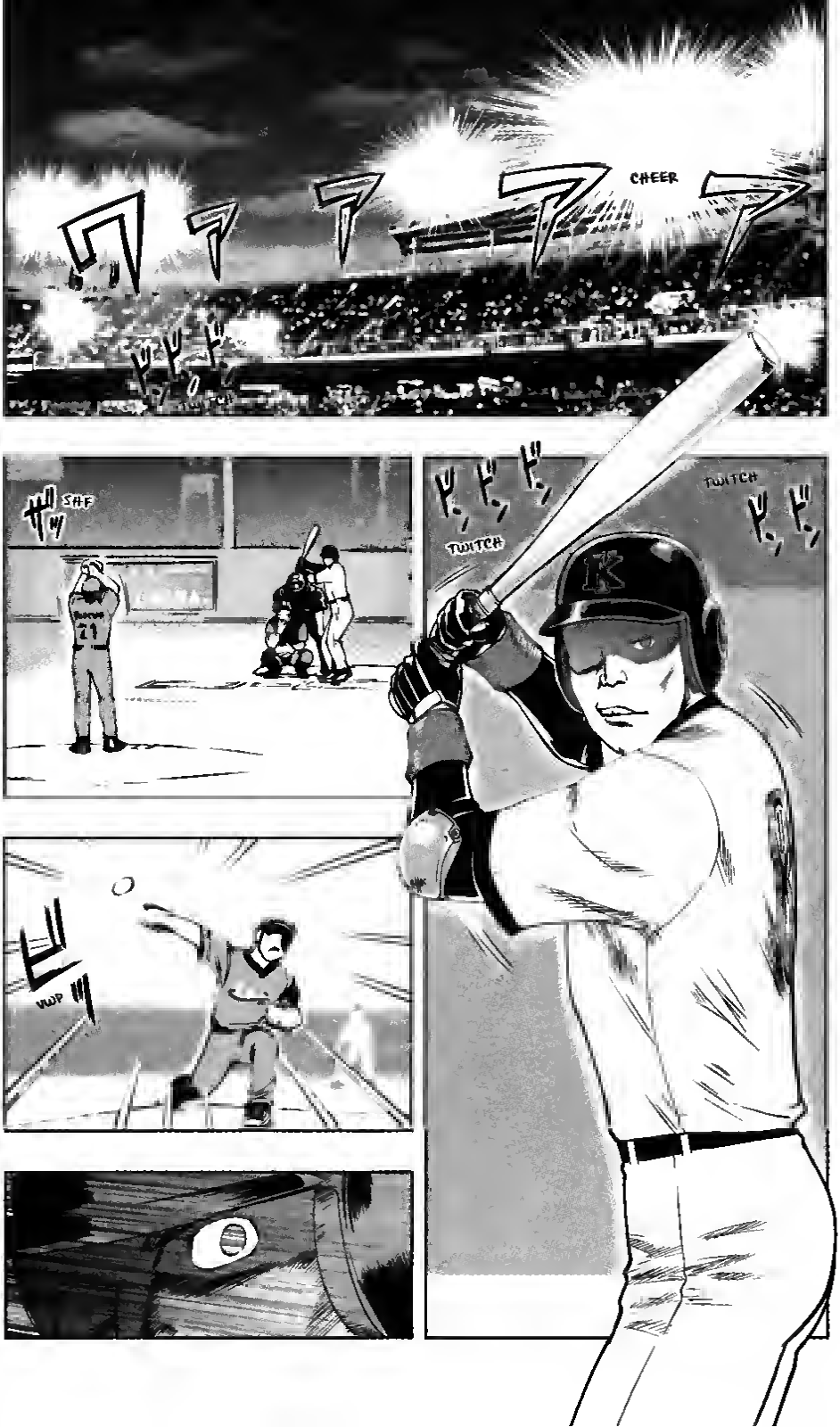

YU-YUUKO-SAN! DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
SORRY, SORRY. ♡
BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO RUN THAT FAR. IT'S KIND OF RUDE.


I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU.
ANY-WAY...

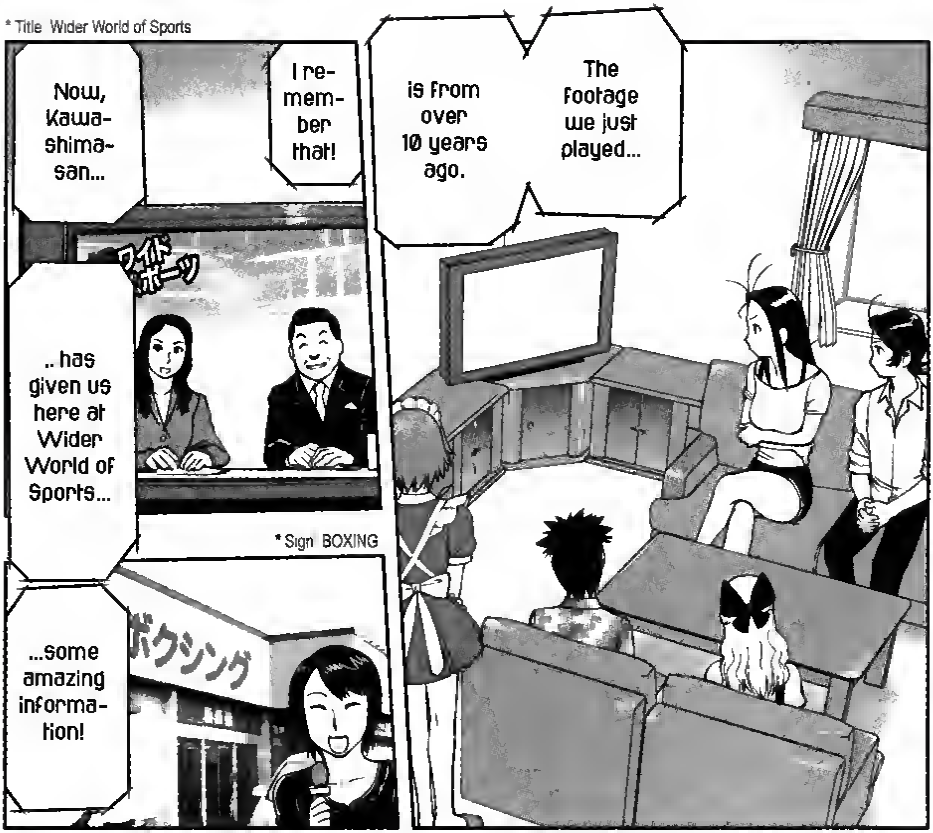

...YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT A FIGHTER OF THE TFTC'S CHOOSING!
!!
TR-DUM
TO GET YOU TO THE EXPERT LEAGUE, MITSURU-KUN...
WE'VE DECIDED HOW WE WANT TO HANDLE THIS.

★Fight⑱/END★

Fight 19: Beautiful!


CHEER
SHF
TWITCH
TWITCH
WUP

CRACK
KA-TING
CHEER!
CHEER
KINGS
There it goes! A big home run!
KIYOHARU KAWASHIMA!
This is his 20th home run in his rookie year!


* Title Wider World of Sports
Now, Kawashima-san...
I remember that!
.. has given us here at Wider World of Sports...
* Sign BOXING
...some amazing information!
The footage we just played...
is from over 10 years ago.

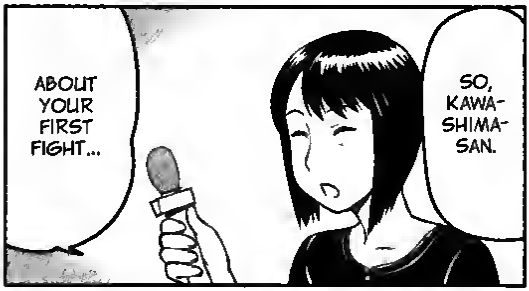
HAH
SLAM

SLAM
BUT NOW, IN THIS BOXING GYM...
HE'S UNDER-GOING SECRET TRAINING TO ENTER THE WORLD OF MARTIAL ARTS!
HFF
WHAM WHAM
SLAM
HE LEFT THE WORLD OF PRO BASEBALL TO BECOME A CELEBRITY TWO YEARS AGO.
GET THIS!
WHAT POWER!
SMASH
HAH
LET'S SEE WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

I THINK I'M ACTUALLY STRONGER THAN WHEN I WAS A BASEBALL PLAYER!
SCIENTIFIC TRAINING METHODS AND TRAINING MY BODY TO BE A FIGHTER.
FOR THE PAST YEAR, I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE LATEST IN...
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE HOW GOOD I AM, BUT I FEEL LIKE I'M IMPROVING.
WRRR
WRRR
PUNCH
PUNCH
THAT'S AMAZING.
BUT WASN'T THE REASON YOU QUIT BASEBALL...
The injury itself hasn't healed totally...
Oh, that's fine.
How will that affect you?
...because you injured your knee?
BUT IT'S ALL JUST FOR SHOW, RIGHT, DORAE-SAN?
HMM... HE'S GOT A LOT OF MUSCLES.
I DON'T THINK SO.
NO.
OH MY!
MUSCLE!
...BUT I'VE CONQUERED IT BY TRAINING THE MUSCLES AROUND THE DAMAGED JOINT.
IT'S LIKE AN ARMOR OF MUSCLE!

PRO BASEBALL PLAYER? ARE THEY GOOD AT FIGHTING?
AS A FORMER PRO BASEBALL PLAYER, WE CAN'T TAKE HIM LIGHTLY.
FROM THE LOOK OF IT, HE HAS TRAINED THE MUSCLES HE NEEDS FOR COMBAT.

AND ONLY A FEW OF THOSE GET TO BE PROFESSIONAL, AND ONLY A FEW OF *THOSE* PROFESSIONALS GET TO STAND OUT.
THERE ARE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF KIDS PLAYING BASEBALL. ONLY A FEW OF THE HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS GET TO PLAY ON THE BEST TEAMS, AND ONLY A FEW OF THOSE GO TO KOSHIEN FOR THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AND DO WELL THERE.
THINK ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER ABOUT PRO BASEBALL IS HOW MANY PEOPLE PLAY IT.
IN OTHER WORDS, A FAMOUS PRO BASEBALL PLAYER IS, IN ATHLETIC TERMS, A *SUPER-ELITE!*


ABOUT YOUR FIRST FIGHT...
SO, KAWASHIMA-SAN.

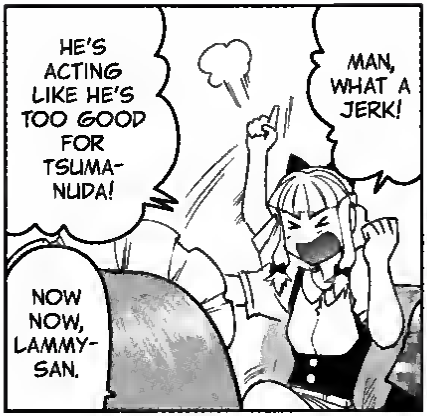
O-OH...
IT'S DANGEROUS TO JUDGE THEIR TALENT AND POTENTIAL LIKE WE WOULD SOMEONE ELSE'S.

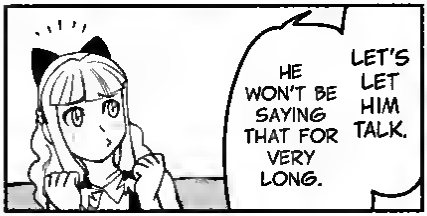
I'LL BE MAKING MY DEBUT IN TSUMANUDA AS A STREET FIGHTER!
YES, IT'S TOMOR-ROW!

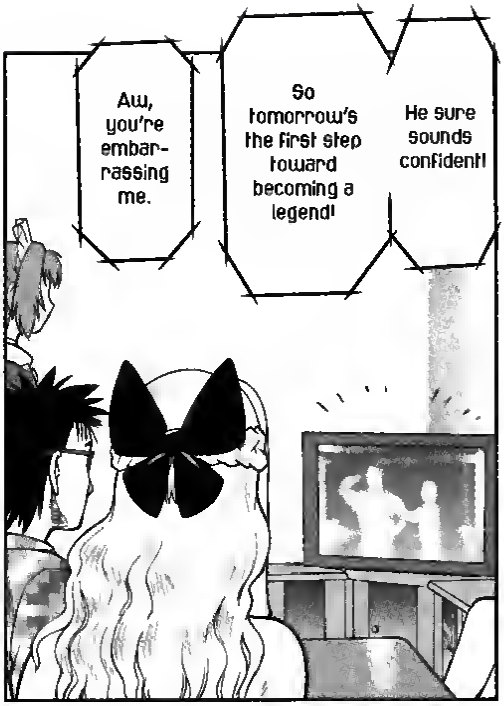
THE ONLY THING I KNOW HOW TO DO IS PLAY BASE-BALL. SO I THOUGHT...
WELL, AS YOU KNOW...
BUT WHY STREET FIGHTING INSTEAD OF A PRO RING?
OH, AT THE FAMOUS "FIGHT TOWN"!

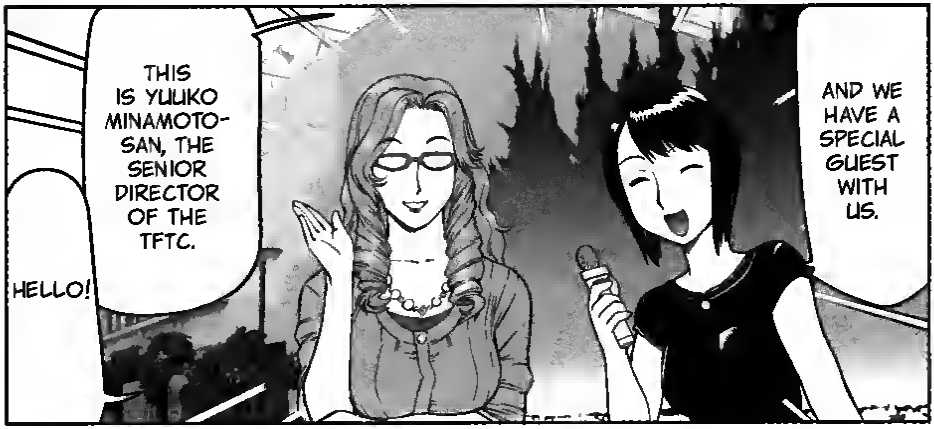
I SEE, SO YOU WANT TO GAIN EXPERIENCE THERE FIRST?
YES.
AND FROM THERE I'LL MOVE ON TO PRO KICKBOXING OR MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.
I WANT TO BE THE WORLD CHAMPI-ON!

BUT YOU CAN FIGHT IN TSUMANUDA EVERY DAY.
PROFESSION-AL FIGHTING, LIKE BOXING, ONLY HAS ONE FIGHT EVERY FEW MONTHS.
"I WANT TO GET AS MANY FIGHTS AS POSSIBLE UNDER MY BELT."
I'M A FORMER BASEBALL PLAYER, SO THAT PACE IS MORE MY STYLE!

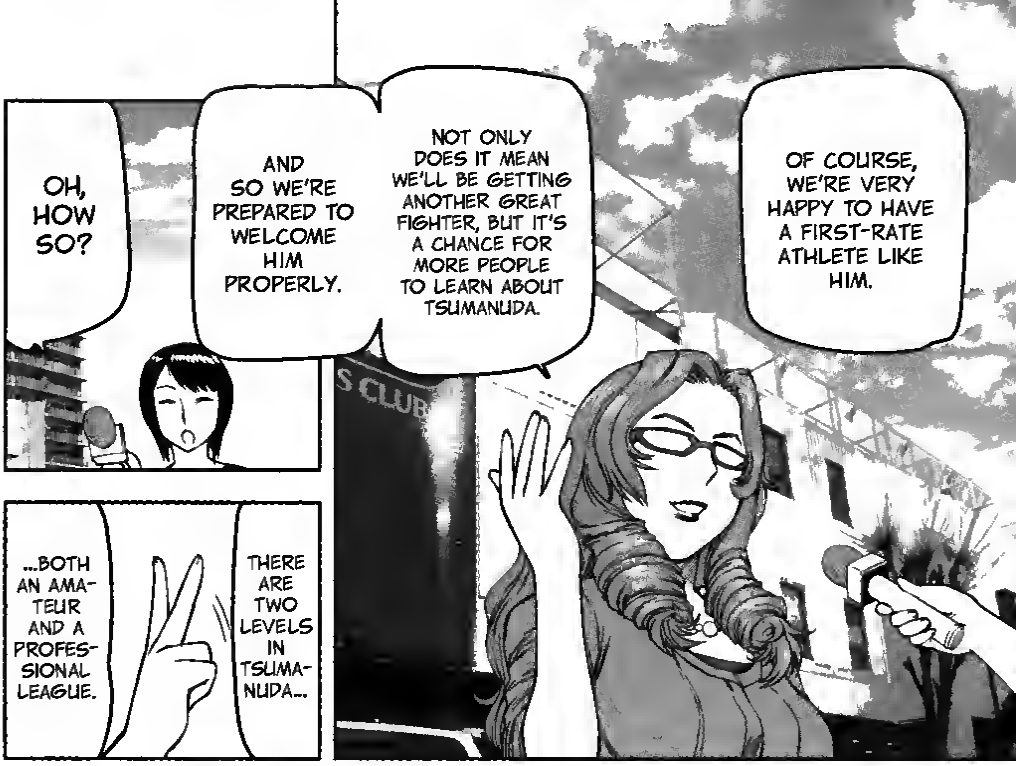

HE'S ACTING LIKE HE'S TOO GOOD FOR TSUMA-NUDA!
MAN, WHAT A JERK!
NOW NOW, LAMMY-SAN.

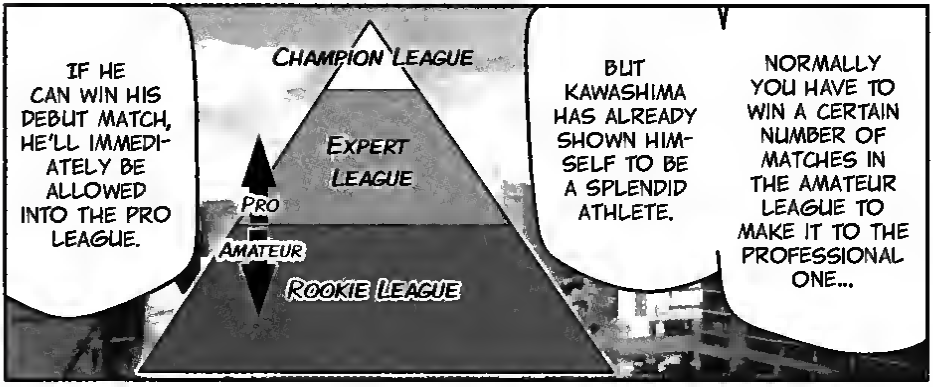

HE WON'T BE SAYING THAT FOR VERY LONG.
LET'S LET HIM TALK.

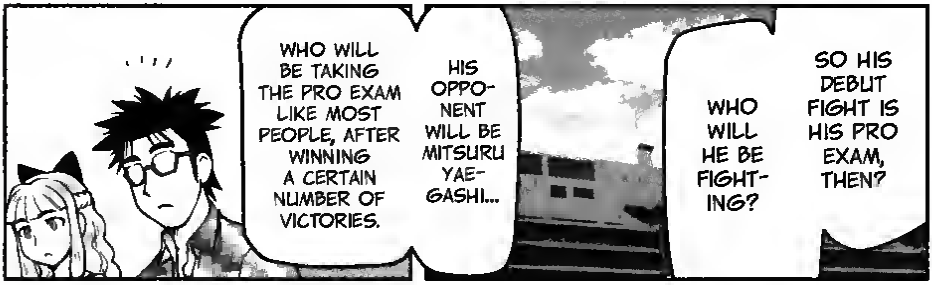

Aw, you're embar-rassing me.
So tomorrow's the first step toward becoming a legend!
He sure sounds confident!

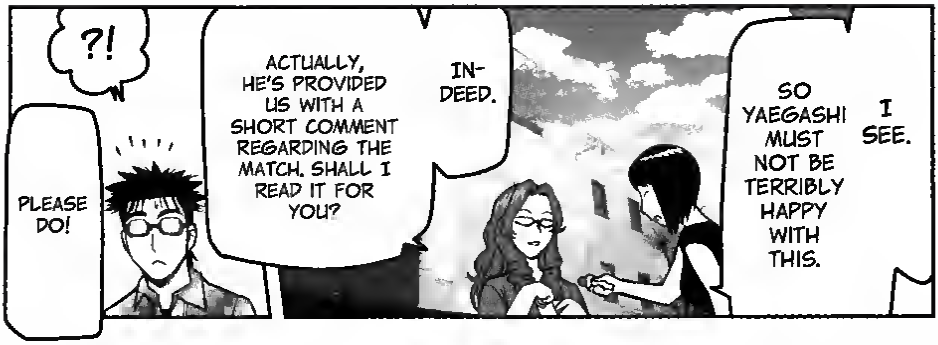

THIS IS YUUKO MINAMOTO-SAN, THE SENIOR DIRECTOR OF THE TFTC.
HELLO!
AND WE HAVE A SPECIAL GUEST WITH US.

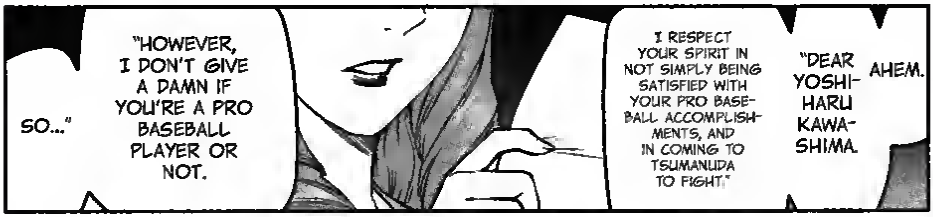
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON HAVING KAWASHIMA JOIN IN?
SO YOU'RE ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF KEEPING TSUMANUDA FIGHT TOWN RUNNING.
OH! HER, TOO!

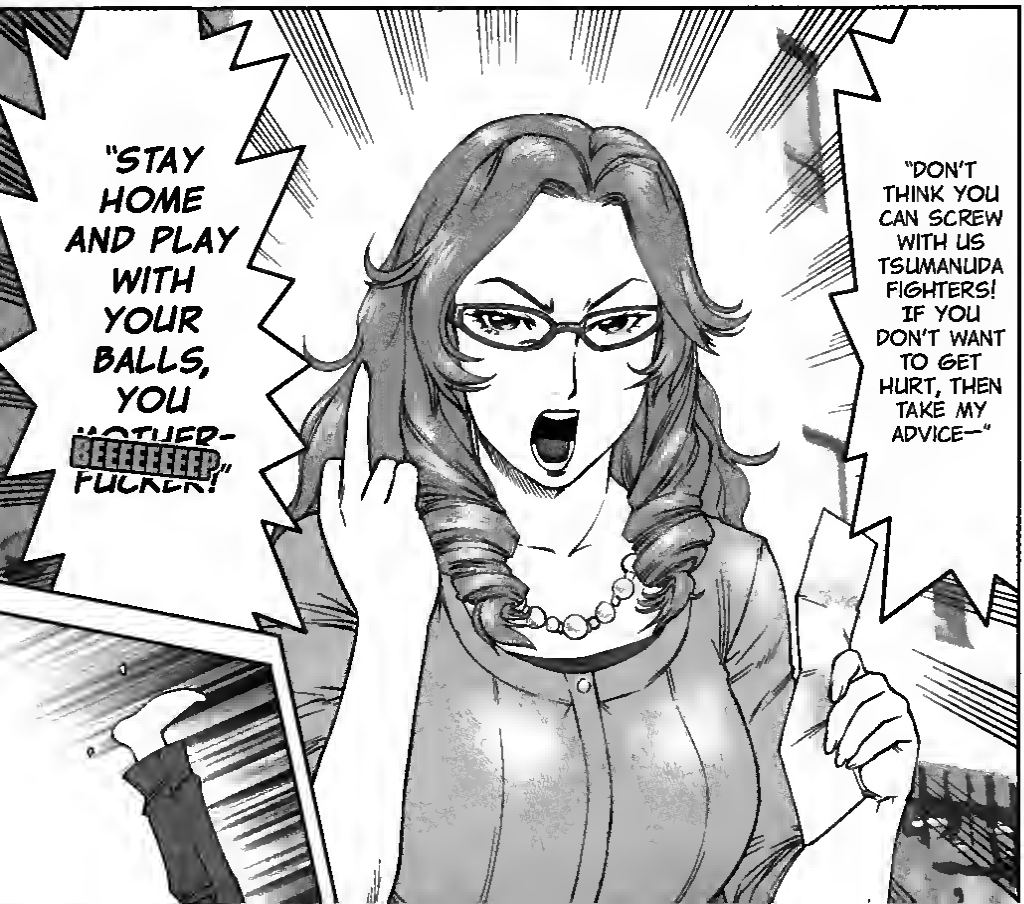

OH, HOW SO?
AND SO WE'RE PREPARED TO WELCOME HIM PROPERLY.
NOT ONLY DOES IT MEAN WE'LL BE GETTING ANOTHER GREAT FIGHTER, BUT IT'S A CHANCE FOR MORE PEOPLE TO LEARN ABOUT TSUMANUDA.
OF COURSE, WE'RE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE A FIRST-RATE ATHLETE LIKE HIM.
...BOTH AN AMATEUR AND A PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE.
THERE ARE TWO LEVELS IN TSUMANUDA...

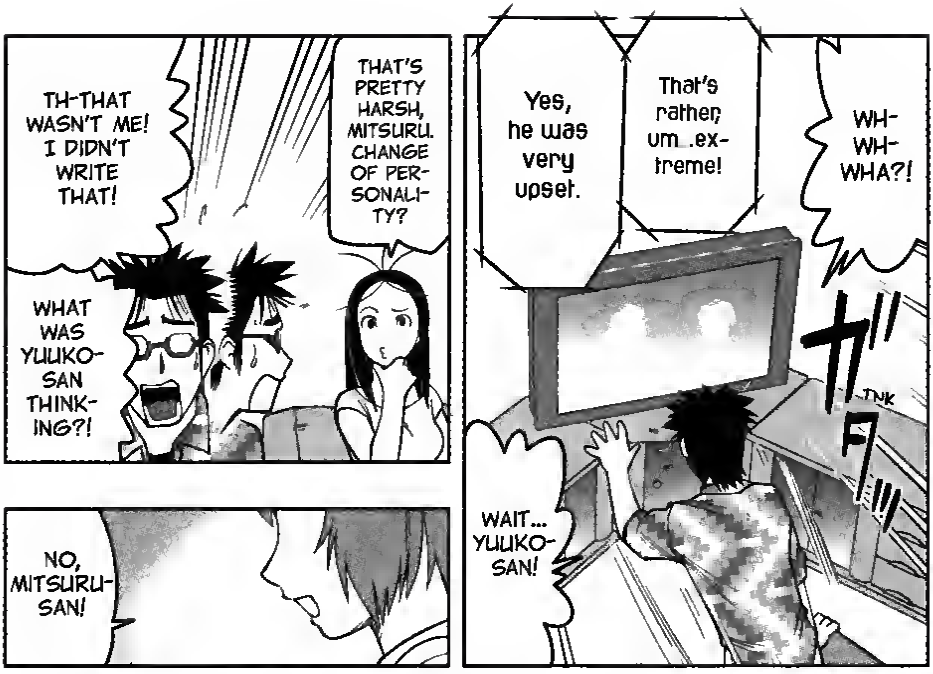

IF HE CAN WIN HIS DEBUT MATCH, HE'LL IMMEDIATELY BE ALLOWED INTO THE PRO LEAGUE.
CHAMPION LEAGUE
EXPERT LEAGUE
PRO
AMATEUR
ROOKIE LEAGUE
BUT KAWASHIMA HAS ALREADY SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE A SPLENDID ATHLETE.
NORMALLY YOU HAVE TO WIN A CERTAIN NUMBER OF MATCHES IN THE AMATEUR LEAGUE TO MAKE IT TO THE PROFESSIONAL ONE...


WHO WILL BE TAKING THE PRO EXAM LIKE MOST PEOPLE, AFTER WINNING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF VICTORIES.
HIS OPPONENT WILL BE MITSURU YAEGASHI...
WHO WILL HE BE FIGHTING?
SO HIS DEBUT FIGHT IS HIS PRO EXAM, THEN?


?!
PLEASE DO!
ACTUALLY, HE'S PROVIDED US WITH A SHORT COMMENT REGARDING THE MATCH. SHALL I READ IT FOR YOU?
INDEED.
SO YAEGASHI MUST NOT BE TERRIBLY HAPPY WITH THIS.
I SEE.


AHEM.
"DEAR YOSHIHARU KAWASHIMA.
I RESPECT YOUR SPIRIT IN NOT SIMPLY BEING SATISFIED WITH YOUR PRO BASEBALL ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND IN COMING TO TSUMANUDA TO FIGHT."
"HOWEVER, I DON'T GIVE A DAMN IF YOU'RE A PRO BASEBALL PLAYER OR NOT.
SO..."


"DON'T THINK YOU CAN SCREW WITH US TSUMANUDA FIGHTERS! IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT, THEN TAKE MY ADVICE—"
"STAY HOME AND PLAY WITH YOUR BALLS, YOU MOTHER-FUCKER!"
BEEEEEEEP


TH-THAT WASN'T ME! I DIDN'T WRITE THAT!
THAT'S PRETTY HARSH, MITSURU. CHANGE OF PERSONALITY?
WHAT WAS YUUKO-SAN THINKING?!
NO, MITSURU-SAN!
Yes, he was very upset.
That's rather, um..extreme!
WH-WH-WHA?!
TNK
WAIT... YUUKO-SAN!

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO GET HIM RILED UP.
FIGHTING AN ENEMY WHOSE GUARD IS DOWN WON'T TEACH YOU ANYTHING.
I WROTE THAT.
IT WASN'T HER.
WHAAAT?!

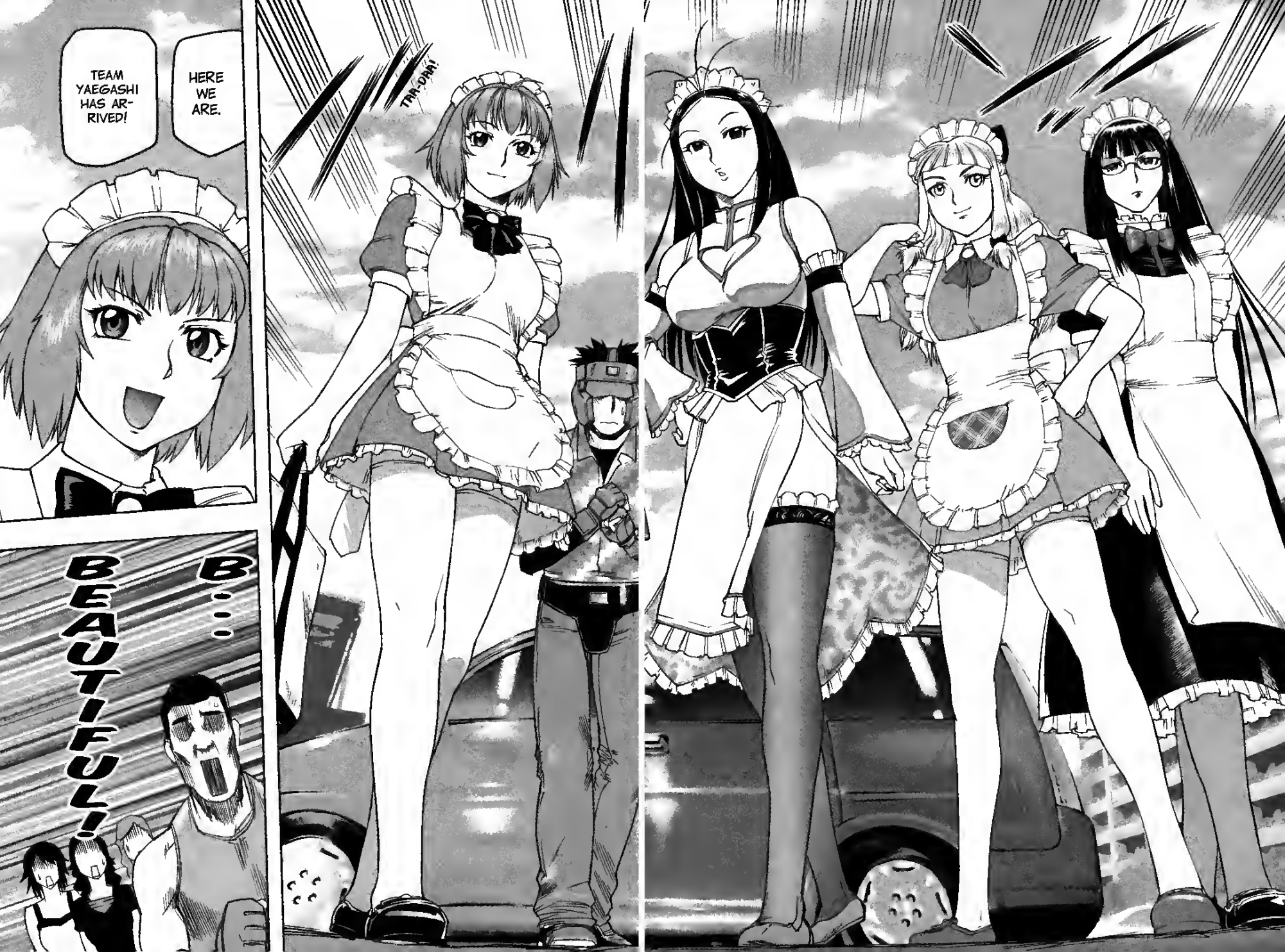
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
ARE YOU...

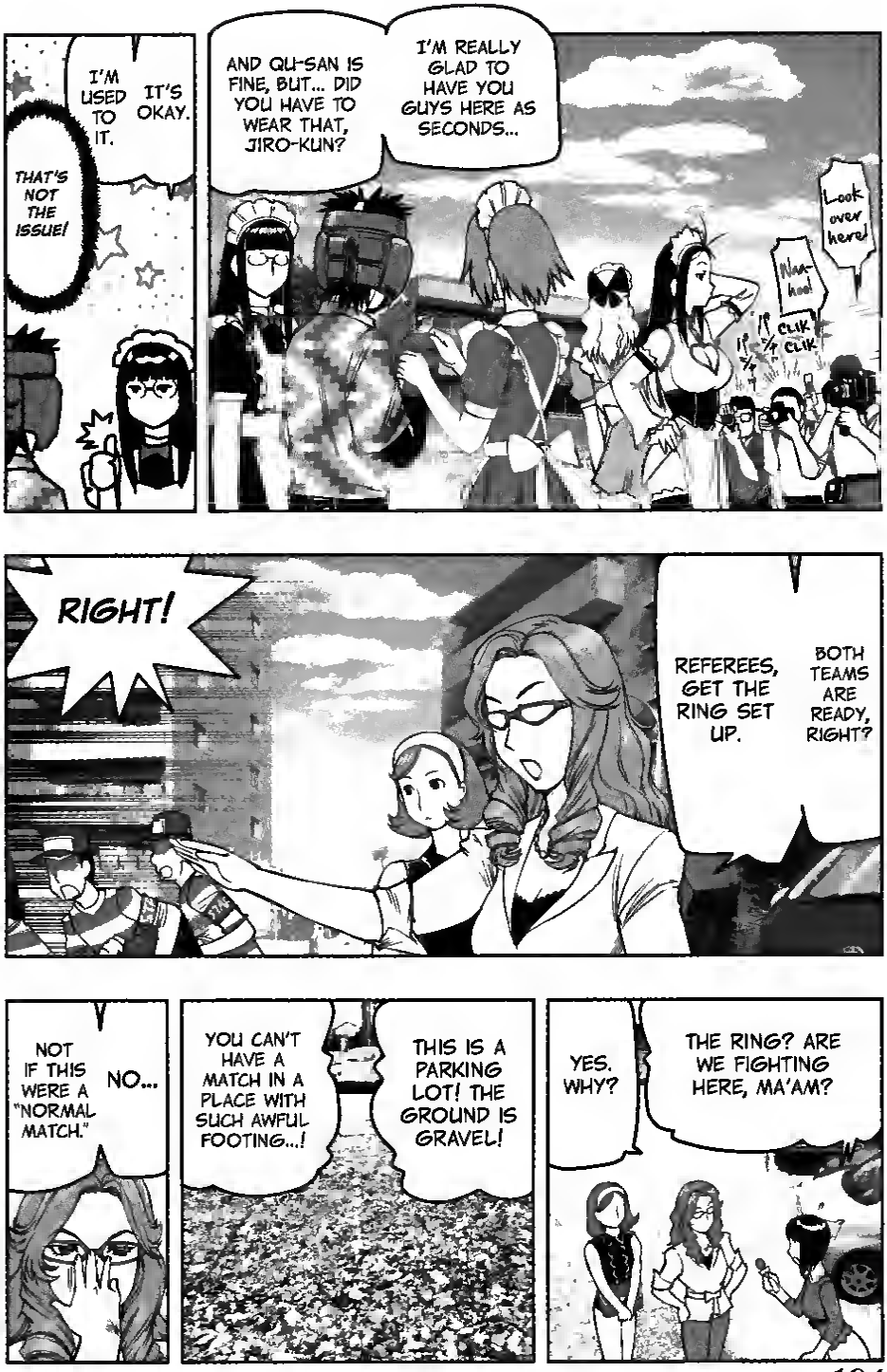
The Next Day

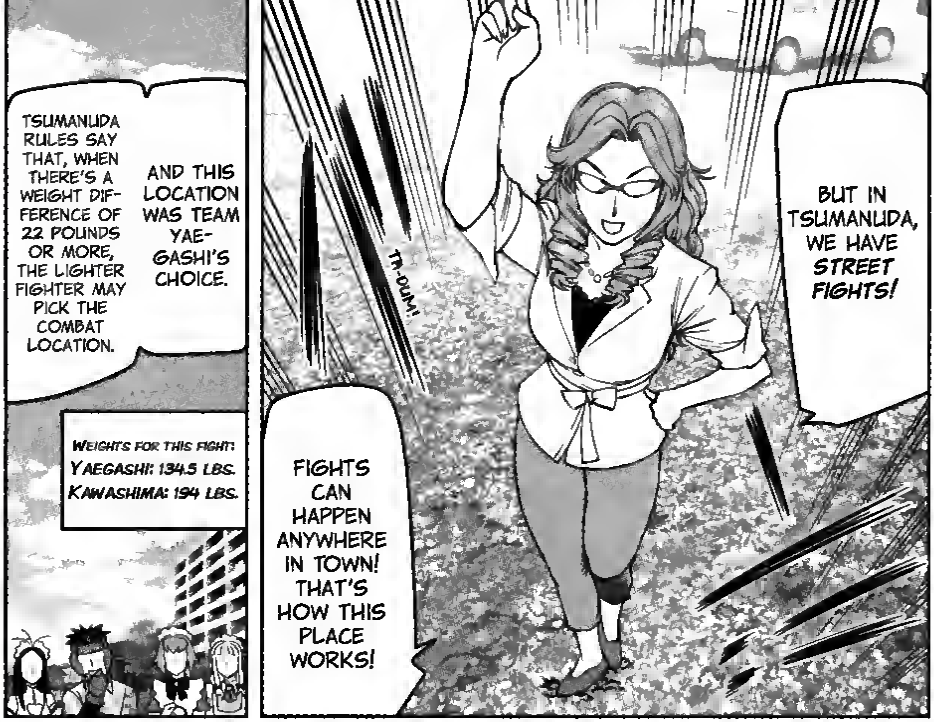
STRETCH
STRETCH

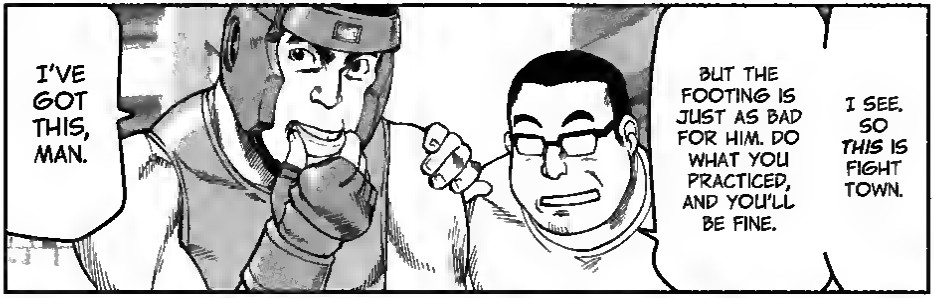
*A diva is a mascot girl

SWERVE
SCREECH
WHOOSH
?!
SCREECH
STEP
STEP
KA-CHAK


TEAM YAEGASHI HAS ARRIVED!
HERE WE ARE.
TAA-DAA!
B...
BEAUTIFUL!


I'M USED TO IT.
IT'S OKAY.
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE!
AND QU-SAN IS FINE, BUT... DID YOU HAVE TO WEAR THAT, JIRO-KUN?
I'M REALLY GLAD TO HAVE YOU GUYS HERE AS SECONDS...
Look over here!
CLIK CLIK
RIGHT!
REFEREES, GET THE RING SET UP.
BOTH TEAMS ARE READY, RIGHT?
NOT IF THIS WERE A "NORMAL MATCH."
NO...
YOU CAN'T HAVE A MATCH IN A PLACE WITH SUCH AWFUL FOOTING...!
THIS IS A PARKING LOT! THE GROUND IS GRAVEL!
YES. WHY?
THE RING? ARE WE FIGHTING HERE, MA'AM?

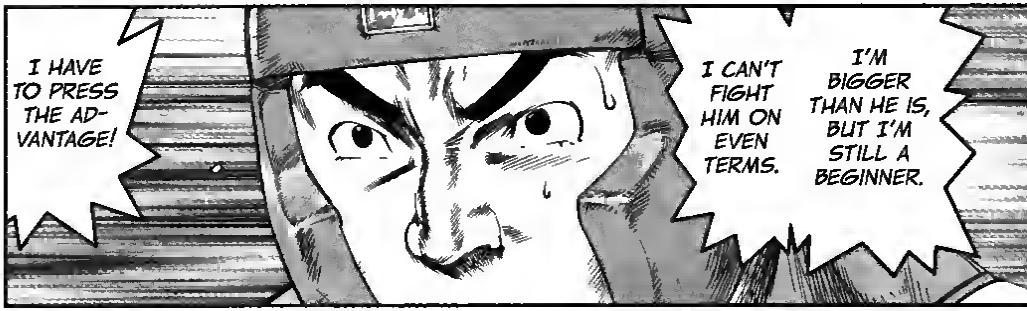

TSUMANUDA RULES SAY THAT, WHEN THERE'S A WEIGHT DIFFERENCE OF 22 POUNDS OR MORE, THE LIGHTER FIGHTER MAY PICK THE COMBAT LOCATION.
AND THIS LOCATION WAS TEAM YAEGASHI'S CHOICE.
WEIGHTS FOR THIS FIGHT:
YAEGASHI: 134.5 LBS.
KAWASHIMA: 194 LBS.
TH-OUM!
FIGHTS CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE IN TOWN! THAT'S HOW THIS PLACE WORKS!
BUT IN TSUMANUDA, WE HAVE STREET FIGHTS!


I'VE GOT THIS, MAN.
BUT THE FOOTING IS JUST AS BAD FOR HIM. DO WHAT YOU PRACTICED, AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
I SEE. SO THIS IS FIGHT TOWN.

BOTH FIGHTERS COME FORWARD!

DING
FIGHT!
CRACK
AN ATHLETIC SUPER-ELITE!
SO THAT'S A FORMER PRO BASE-BALL PLAYER...
SUCH PRESSURE... THE ENERGY COMING FROM HIS BODY IS IN-CREDIBLE!
HAH!
VWP
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
I'VE FOUGHT PEOPLE WITH MORE MUSCLES, BUT...
SEEING HIM UP CLOSE, HIS BODY IS AMAZING.
CLENCH

JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED, KIYO!
THAT'S RIGHT! USE YOUR JABS TO JUDGE THE DISTANCE!
WUP
WHP
HAH!
HAH!


I HAVE TO PRESS THE ADVANTAGE!
I CAN'T FIGHT HIM ON EVEN TERMS.
I'M BIGGER THAN HE IS, BUT I'M STILL A BEGINNER.

GRP
A JAB FOLLOWED BY A RIGHT STRAIGHT!
I CAN DO A ONE-TWO PUNCH FROM JAB RANGE!
WITH THIS MUCH OF A REACH ADVANTAGE, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT COUNTERS!
WUP
WUP
WUP

SWING
SWAY
SLIP!
STUMBLE
SLIP
KRSSH
!!

POSE
CLENCH
KEEP COOL, KIYO!
DON'T WORRY! SLIPS AREN'T DOWNS!
WHOA!
CRUNCH

DODGE
SWING
VUU
VUU
VUU

SLIP
HE'S FAST!
DAMN!
SLIDE

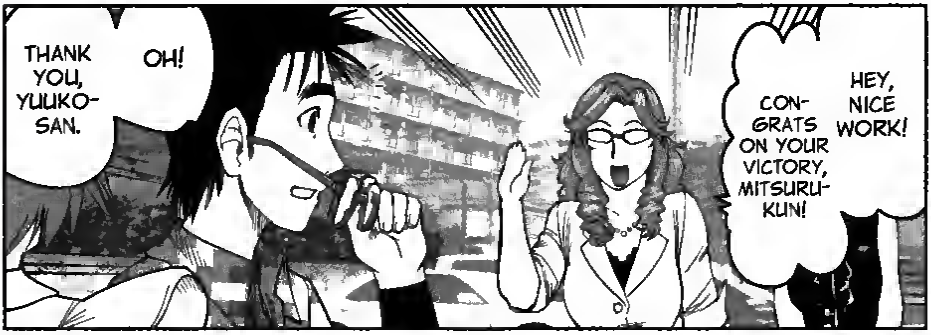
SLIP!
CRUNCH
COLLAPSE
UGH...
VUP
DODGE
ARGH!
GRR!
SWING
SWING
CLENCH
VUP
DODGE
SWING
Ugh!
SLIP
VUP
I SEE...
DORAE-SAN DIDN'T REALLY GIVE ME ANY HINTS THIS TIME...
...BUT FIGHTING ON THIS GROUND WAS PART OF THE PLAN!

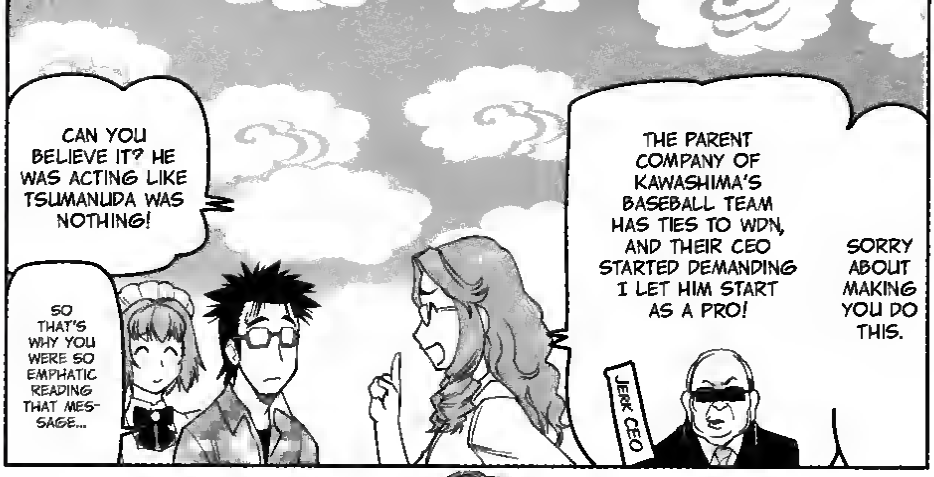
A MARTIAL ARTIST TRAINS TO FIGHT ON ANY TERRAIN.
BUT MOST SPORTS ARE ONLY DONE ON CAREFULLY MAINTAINED FIELDS.
AND PROS ALWAYS WEAR SPECIAL CLEATS.
SLIDE
STAGGER
BUT CLEATS AREN'T ALLOWED IN TSUMA-NUDA!
SINCE HE'S A PRO PLAYER, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS BAD TERRAIN
DASH
ROAR!

HE'S ALREADY ADAPTING TO THE GRAVEL?!
HE ATTACKED FROM THAT POSITION?!
SMASH
WHAP
SWING
GRAB!
BUT!
MUSCLES, INSTINCTS, AND GUTS... I'D NEVER BEAT HIM IN ANY SPORT.
ROAR
HE REALLY IS AMAZING.
...AND THE WEAK DEFEAT THE STRONG!
TECHNIQUES LET THE SMALL DEFEAT THE BIG...

THAT
...
...IS WHAT MARTIAL ARTS IS ALL ABOUT!

* A TKO is a technical knockout




CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? HE WAS ACTING LIKE TSUMANUDA WAS NOTHING!
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WERE SO EMPHATIC READING THAT MESSAGE...
THE PARENT COMPANY OF KAWASHIMA'S BASEBALL TEAM HAS TIES TO WDN, AND THEIR CEO STARTED DEMANDING I LET HIM START AS A PRO!
SORRY ABOUT MAKING YOU DO THIS.
JERK CEO

AND NOW YOU'VE ENTERED THE EXPERT LEAGUE WITH NO PROBLEMS!
WATCHING YOUR EASY WIN MADE ME FEEL GREAT!

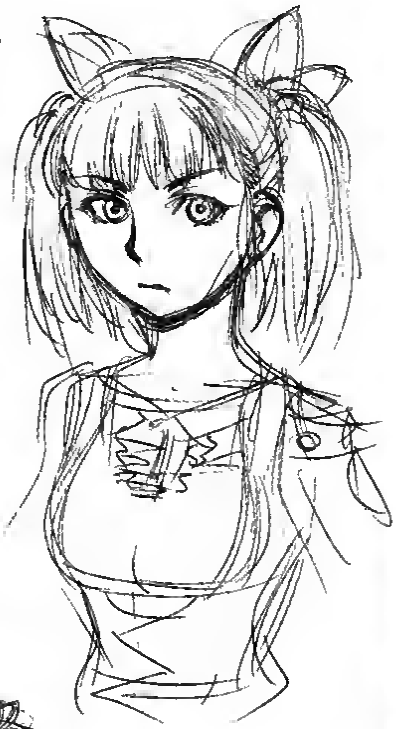
WELCOME ONCE AGAIN...
...TO TSUMANUDA FIGHT TOWN!
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE A PROFESSIONAL FIGHTER!

★Fight⑲END★

AFTERWORD

Thank you for purchasing Tsumaruda Volume 3!

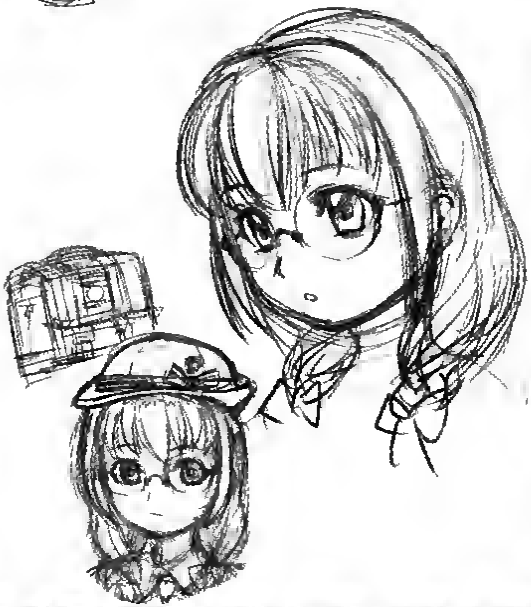
It's a lot livelier around here with all the new characters from Volume 3. Look forward to seeing more of them!



She's not a new character, but I'll start with a rough sketch of Lammy. She's the one whose design was the hardest in all of Tsumaruda.

TSUMAKUDA

An early rough sketch of Yuuko Minamoto and her daughter. I wasn't sure what hair color to make them at first, but they're basically the same since I started.



■ END ■

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 4

●コミック911●

【YKコミックス】

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